SUPERMAN • NATIONAL COMICS • DC
GIANT G61
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BAT MAN
AUG.
NO. 213
25¢
The ORIGIN of ALFRED
A 30th ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL featuring
5 CLASSIC TALES
THE ORIGIN OF ROBIN
THE MAN BEHIND THE RED HOOD
The ORIGIN of CLAY FACE
THE GAME OF DEATH
N-102

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THE ORIGIN OF ROBIN.....

Here's the story you demanded...the complete origin of the Boy Wonder! Many past issues of BATMAN and DETECTIVE were searched to bring together ALL the facts for the first time...with new, exciting illustrations!

HERE COMES ALFRED.....

How did Bruce Wayne's butler enter the lives of the Dynamic Duo? How did he learn their secret identities? You'll find out in the original origin of Alfred, from BATMAN No. 16 (April-May, 1943).

THE GAME OF DEATH.....

From the pages of STAR SPANGLED COMICS No. 127 (April, 1952) comes an exciting saga of Robin! In this one, the Teen Thunderbolt must decide how his partner, Batman, is to die!

THE MAN BEHIND THE RED HOOD.....

One of Batman's earliest cases is investigated again, to discover the secrets behind a baffling criminal whom the Caped Crime-fighter never unmasked! We defy you to guess the identity of the mystery marauder called the Red Hood, in this tale from DETECTIVE No. 186 (February, 1951).

THE CHALLENGE OF CLAY-FACE.....

Our last giant told of the first Clay-Face...an actor in a weird disguise. But far stranger is the second villain of that name...the unstoppable being who can alter his shape at will! From DETECTIVE No. 298 (December, 1961).

BATMAN, No. 213, July-Aug., 1969. Published monthly, with the exception of April and October, by NATIONAL PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS, INC., 2nd & Dickey Sts., SPARTA, ILL. 62286. Editorial, Executive offices, 909 THIRD AVE., NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022. E. Nelson Bridwell, Editor. Carmine Infantino, Editorial Director. SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SPARTA, ILL. under the act of March 3, 1879. No subscriptions. For advertising rates address Richard A. Feldon & Co., 41 E. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10017. Copyright ©National Periodical Publications, Inc., 1969. All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. No actual persons, living or dead, are intended or should be inferred.

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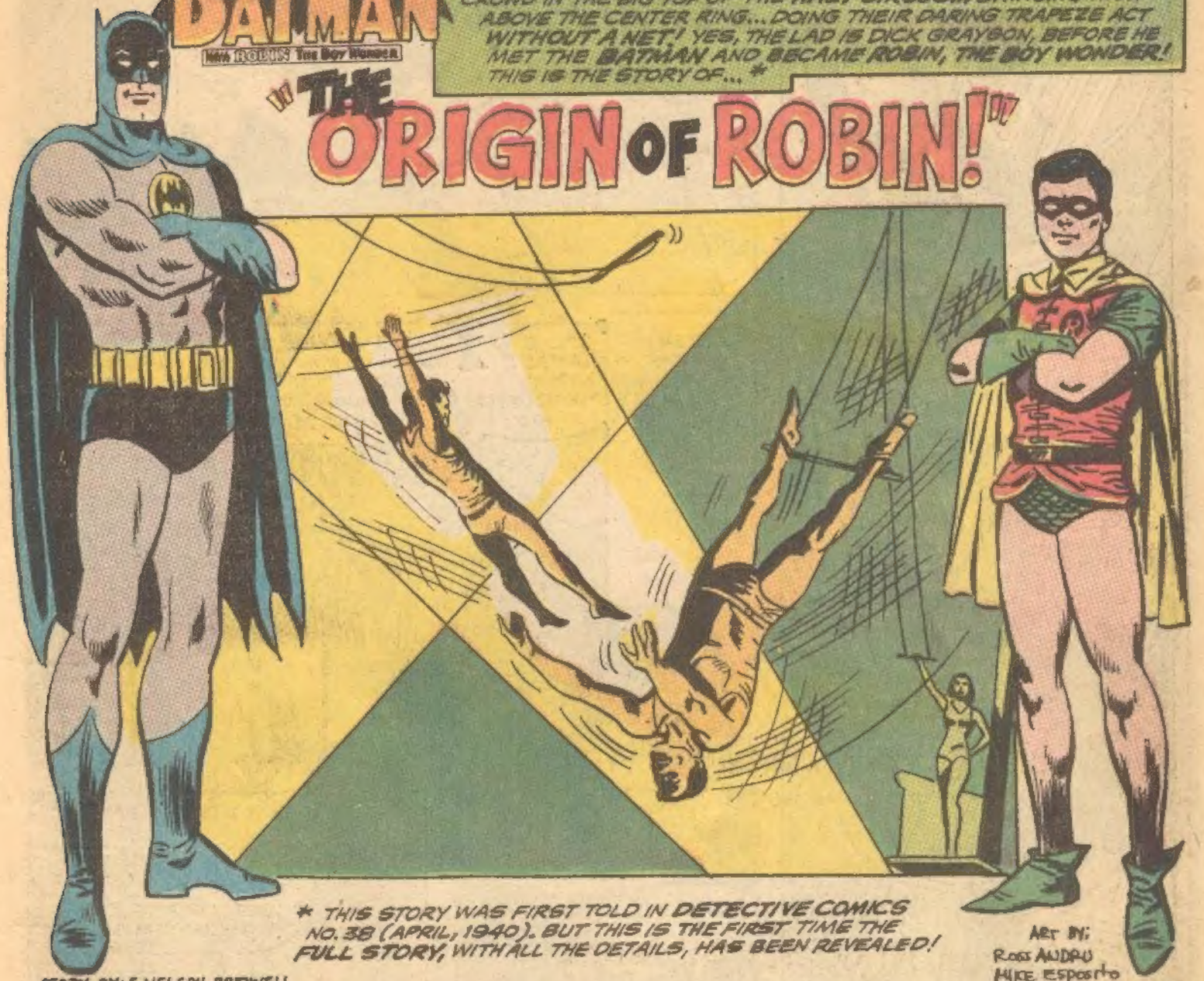
BATMAN

With ROBIN The Boy Wonder

THE TIME: SEVERAL YEARS AGO! THE PLACE: NEWTON, A RISING YOUNG COMMUNITY NEAR GOTHAM CITY! THE SCENE: THE FLYING GRAYSONS, JOHN, MARY AND THEIR YOUNG SON, DICK, ARE THRILLING A CAPACITY CROWD IN THE BIG TOP OF THE HALY CIRCUS... SWINGING HIGH ABOVE THE CENTER RING... DOING THEIR DARING TRAPEZE ACT WITHOUT A NET! YES, THE LAD IS DICK GRAYSON, BEFORE HE MET THE BATMAN AND BECAME ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER! THIS IS THE STORY OF... *

"THE ORIGIN OF ROBIN!"

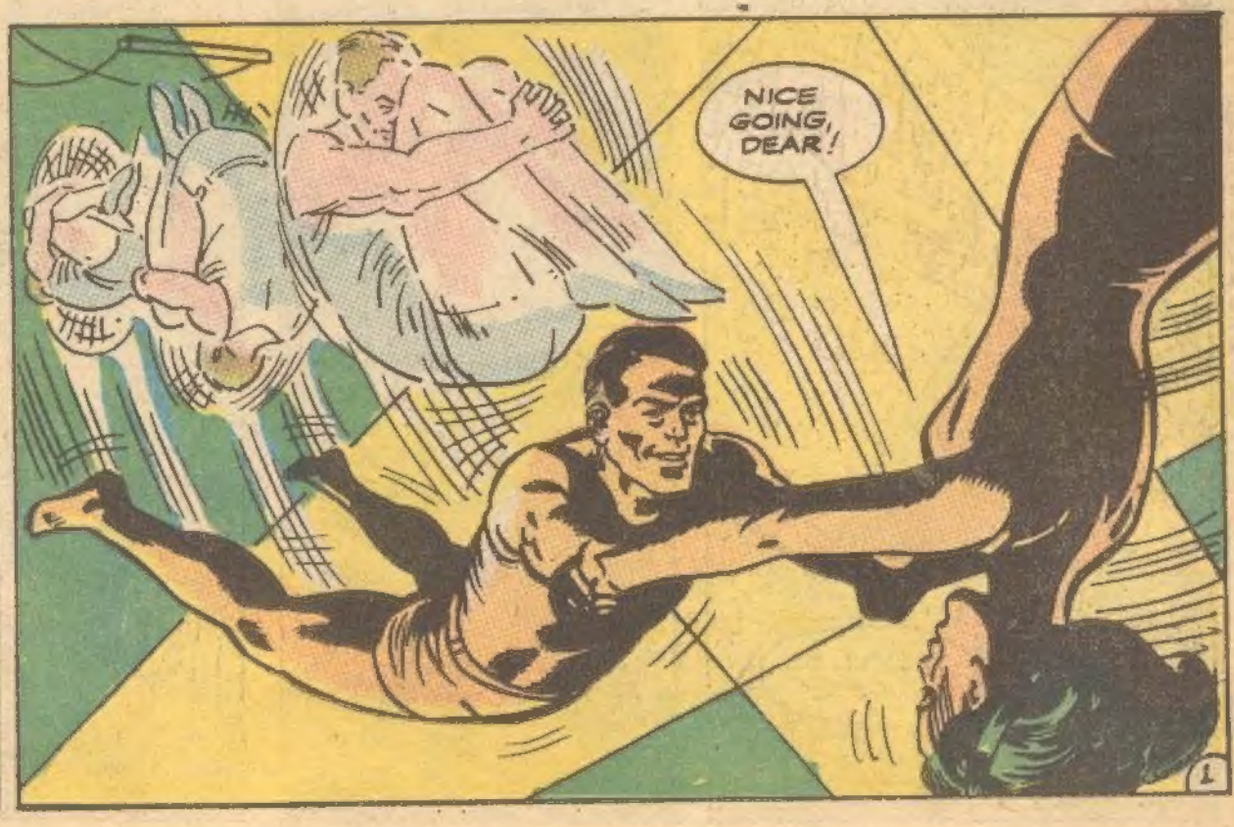


* THIS STORY WAS FIRST TOLD IN DETECTIVE COMICS NO. 38 (APRIL, 1940). BUT THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THE FULL STORY, WITH ALL THE DETAILS, HAS BEEN REVEALED!

STORY BY: E. NELSON BRIDWELL

ART BY: ROSS ANDRU MIKE ESPOSITO

HIS PART OF THE ACT OVER, DICK DESCENDS TO THE TANBARK AND WATCHES PROUDLY AS THE RINGMASTER ANNOUNCES HIS FATHER'S SPECIALTY, THE TRIPLE SPIN! THERE IS A TENSE SILENCE, SAVE FOR THE DRUM ROLL, AS JOHN GRAYSON FLIES OUT... SOMERSAULTS THRICE... AND STRAIGHTENS OUT...



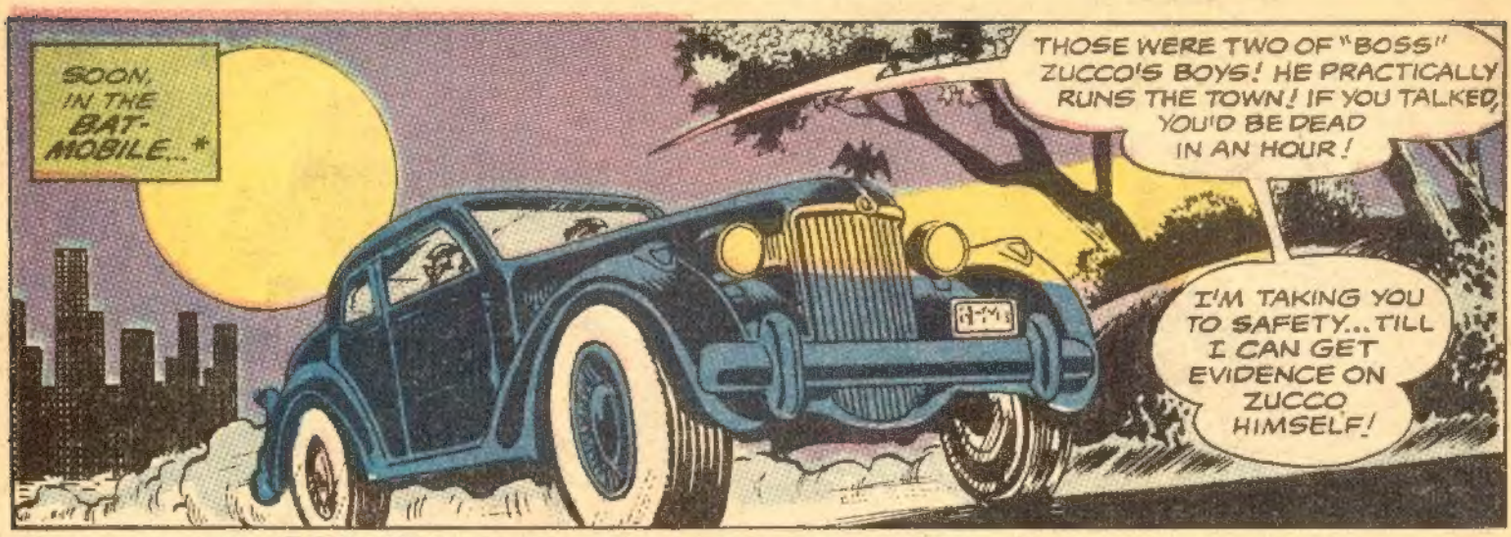
BUT SUDDENLY, AS GRAYSON'S WEIGHT IS ADDED TO THAT OF HIS WIFE, THE ROPES OF THE TRAPEZE HOLDING THEM PART, AND...
JOHN!
EEEEEEEE
OH... NO... MOM! DAD!
THEY'LL BE KILLED!

LET ME THROUGH! THEY'RE NOT...
I'M AFRAID SO, SON!

LATER, AS THE SORROWING LAD PASSES THE CIRCUS OFFICE ON HIS WAY TO THE DRESSING TENT...
TOO BAD ABOUT THAT "ACCIDENT," HALY!
YEAH! YOU SHOULDA TAKEN OUR TIP! THERE'D BE NO ACCIDENTS IF YOU PAID US TO "PROTECT" YOU!
YOU MURDERERS! I'LL PAY... BUT ONLY SO NO ONE ELSE GETS KILLED!

THEY MURDERED MOM AND DAD! I'M GOING TO THE POLICE!
NO, SON... NOT YET!

WHA...? WHO...?
I'M THE BATMAN! I WANT TO HELP YOU GET THOSE KILLERS! BUT YOU CAN'T GO TO THE POLICE! COME WITH ME AND I'LL TELL YOU WHY!
2


SOON, IN THE BAT-MOBILE...*
THOSE WERE TWO OF "BOSS" ZUCCO'S BOYS! HE PRACTICALLY RUNS THE TOWN! IF YOU TALKED, YOU'D BE DEAD IN AN HOUR!
I'M TAKING YOU TO SAFETY... TILL I CAN GET EVIDENCE ON ZUCCO HIMSELF!

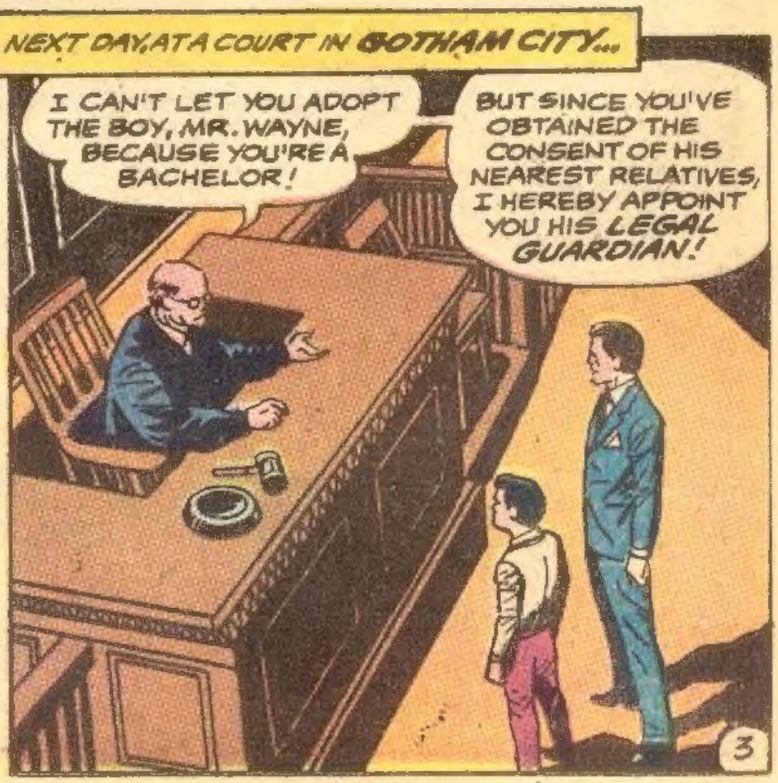
*THIS ORIGINAL **BATMOBILE** WAS MERELY A POWERFUL SEDAN, WITHOUT DECORATIONS OR SPECIAL ACCESSORIES!

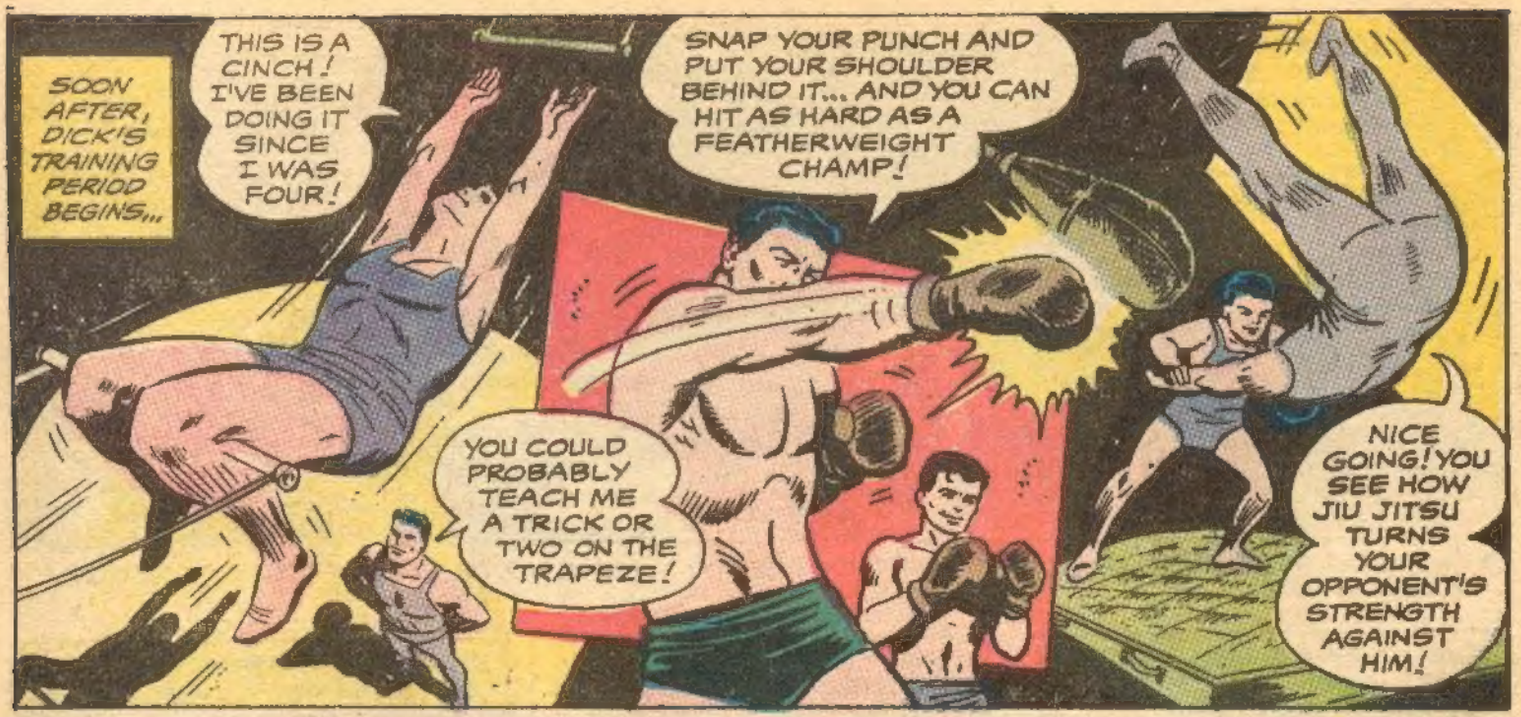
I HAVE A SPECIAL INTEREST IN YOU... BECAUSE MY PARENTS, TOO, WERE KILLED BY A CRIMINAL! THAT'S WHY I DEDICATED MY LIFE TO FIGHTING CRIME!
I'D LIKE TO DO THE SAME! GIVE ME A CHANCE TO AVENGE MY PARENTS!

THOUGH THE CAPED CRIME-FIGHTER IS AT FIRST RELUCTANT, DICK KEEPS PLEADING, AND, AS THEY REACH THE SECRET BATCAVE...
OKAY, DICK! I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE! COME WITH ME!

GRIMLY, BATMAN ADMINISTERS A SOLEMN OATH...
SWEAR THAT YOU WILL FIGHT AGAINST CRIME AND CORRUPTION... AND NEVER SWERVE FROM THE PATH OF RIGHT!
I SWEAR IT!

NOW I'M GOING TO TRUST YOU WITH A SECRET I'VE NEVER REVEALED TO ANYONE ELSE... MY REAL IDENTITY! I'M SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE!
G-GOLLY!


NEXT DAY, AT A COURT IN GOTHAM CITY...
I CAN'T LET YOU ADOPT THE BOY, MR. WAYNE, BECAUSE YOU'RE A BACHELOR!
BUT SINCE YOU'VE OBTAINED THE CONSENT OF HIS NEAREST RELATIVES, I HEREBY APPOINT YOU HIS LEGAL GUARDIAN!


SOON AFTER, DICK'S TRAINING PERIOD BEGINS...
THIS IS A CINCH! I'VE BEEN DOING IT SINCE I WAS FOUR!
SNAP YOUR PUNCH AND PUT YOUR SHOULDER BEHIND IT... AND YOU CAN HIT AS HARD AS A FEATHERWEIGHT CHAMP!
YOU COULD PROBABLY TEACH ME A TRICK OR TWO ON THE TRAPEZE!
NICE GOING! YOU SEE HOW JIU JITSU TURNS YOUR OPPONENT'S STRENGTH AGAINST HIM!

FINALLY, ONE DAY...
YOU'RE ALMOST READY, DICK! BUT TO OPERATE WITH BATMAN, YOU'LL NEED ANOTHER IDENTITY... A COSTUME... AND A NEW NAME!
SINCE YOU'RE BATMAN, MAYBE I COULD TAKE THE NAME OF A DIFFERENT FLYING CREATURE!

AND SO...
SAY, THIS IS A GREAT OUTFIT YOU WHIPPED UP! AND TO THINK YOU SEWED IT YOURSELF!
I LEARNED TO SEW IN THE SEA SCOUTS!
AND I MADE A COSTUME LIKE THIS FOR MYSELF... YEARS AGO...

"MAYBE SOME DAY I'LL TELL DICK HOW I CREATED THAT DISGUISE TO USE WHEN I PERSUADED MY IDOL, POLICE DETECTIVE HARVEY HARRIS, TO LET ME GO ON A CASE WITH HIM*..."
I'LL TEACH YOU ABOUT MY PROFESSION! AND SINCE I DON'T KNOW YOUR NAME, AND YOU'RE AS BRILLIANT AS A ROBIN REDBREAST IN THAT COSTUME, I'LL CALL YOU ROBIN!

*AS TOLD IN "WHEN BATMAN WAS ROBIN"—DETECTIVE NO. 266 (DEC. 1955); REPRINTED IN GIANT BATMAN ANNUAL NO. 2 (1961).

YET IT IS NOT IN THE COLORFUL COSTUME OF THE BOY WONDER THAT DICK BEGINS HIS CAREER, BUT THE GUISE OF A DIRTY-FACED NEWSBOY... IN NEWTOWN!
HERE YA ARE! GET YOUR PAPERS! PAPERS!

THE FIRST DAY BRINGS NO ACTION... BUT THE FOLLOWING MORNING...
EVERY KID WHO SELLS PAPERS COUGHS UP A THIRD OF HIS TAKE EVERY WEEK!
AND YOU AIN'T NO EXCEPTION! HOLD OUT A DIME, AND WE'LL BEAT YOU UP AND TAKE YOUR PAPERS!
I'LL PAY... I'LL PAY...

THE HOODLUMS ARE UNAWARE, HOWEVER, THAT THEIR LATEST VICTIM IS TAILING THEM AS THEY HEAD BACK TO THEIR BOSS...
THE BATMAN FIGURES I MIGHT BE ABLE TO OVERHEAR SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP US GET THE GOODS ON ZUCCO! HOPE HE'S RIGHT!

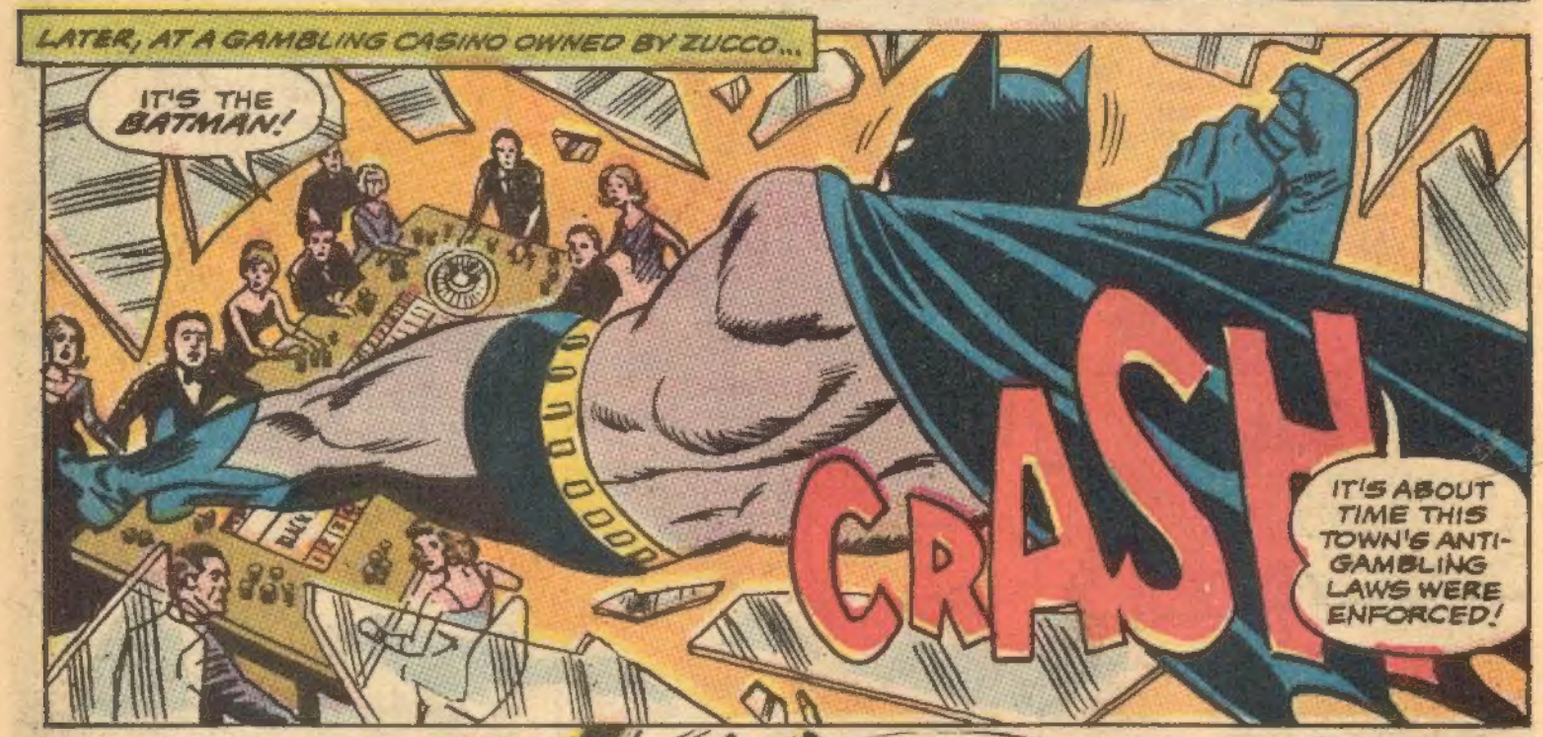
THEY WENT INTO THIS HOUSE... AND I HEAR VOICES IN THERE!

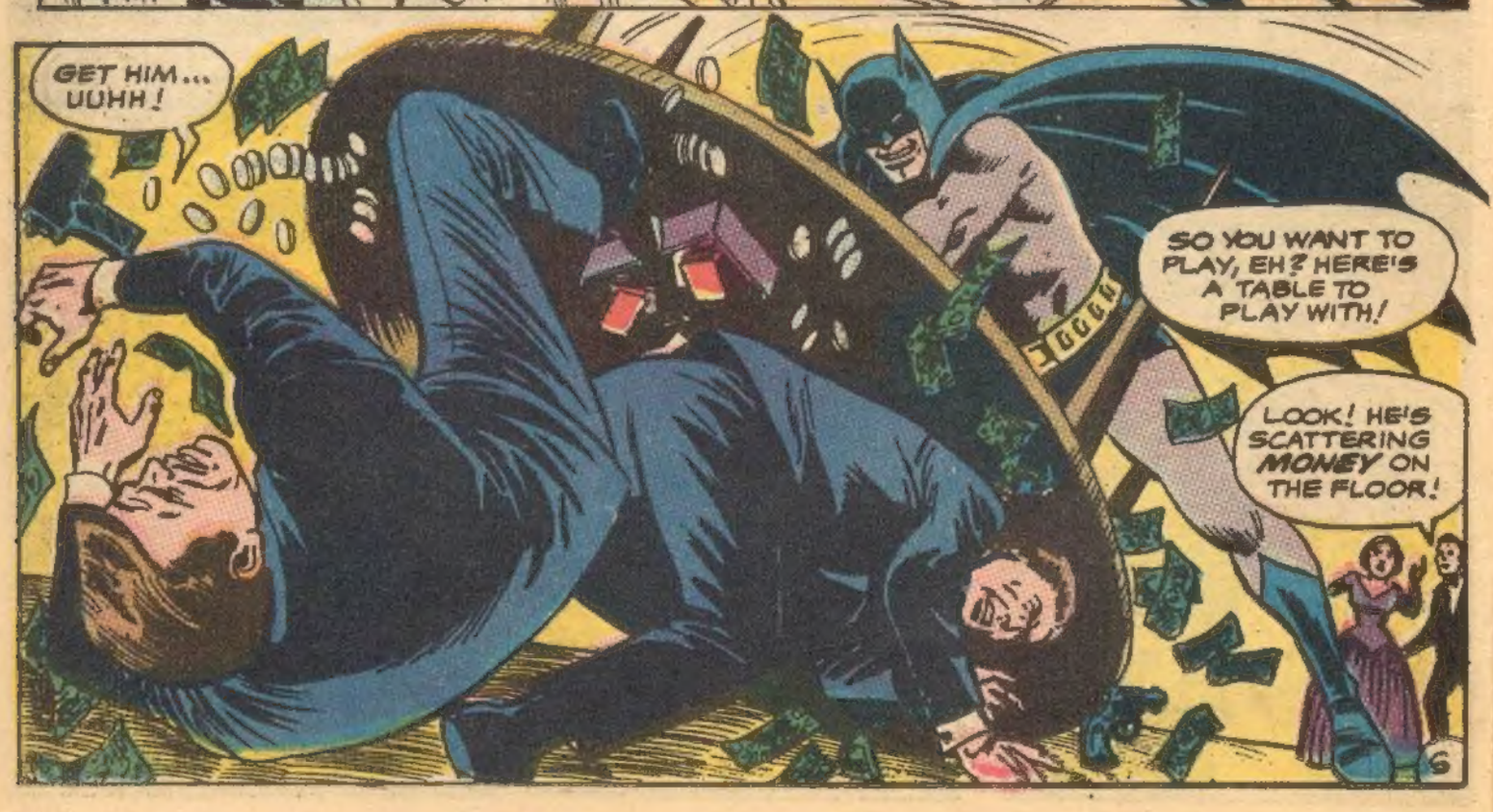
INSIDE...
WELL, BOSS, THERE IT IS... THIS WEEK'S TAKE!
IT'S NOT ENOUGH! GET MORE FROM OUR "CUSTOMERS"! GO TO THE SMALL BUSINESSMEN AND MILK 'EM DRY! AND IF THEY WON'T PLAY BALL... YOU PERSUADE 'EM... SEE?

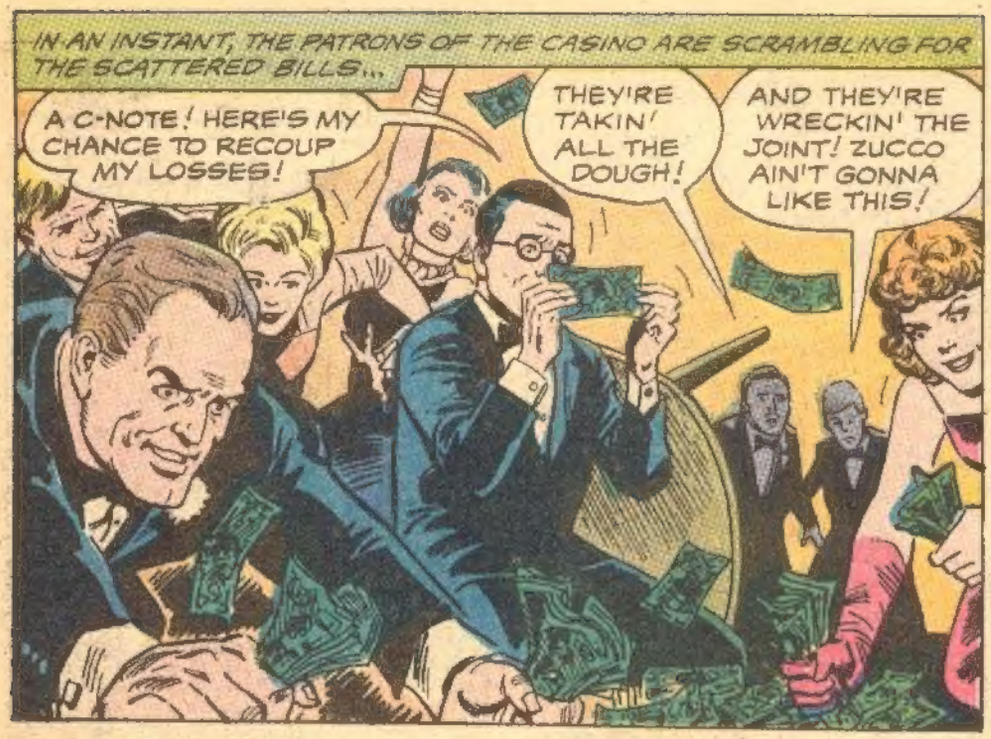
THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN A TAILOR'S SHOP...
BUT I CAN'T PAY YOU ANY MORE! I HAVEN'T GOT IT!
GET IT!
AND IF YOU DON'T...

SUDDENLY, THE HOODS ARE SEIZED FROM BEHIND, AND...
WHAT AN ECHO! HOLLOW... JUST AS I THOUGHT!
DICK SURE GOT ZUCCO'S PLANS... TO THE LAST DETAIL!
KLONK

WHEN YOU SEE BOSS ZUCCO, TELL HIM THE BATMAN WAS HERE! AND MIND YOUR MANNERS... OR I'LL BE BACK!


LATER, AT A GAMBLING CASINO OWNED BY ZUCCO...
IT'S THE BATMAN!
CRASH
IT'S ABOUT TIME THIS TOWN'S ANTI-GAMBLING LAWS WERE ENFORCED!


GET HIM... UUHH!
SO YOU WANT TO PLAY, EH? HERE'S A TABLE TO PLAY WITH!
LOOK! HE'S SCATTERING MONEY ON THE FLOOR!
6


IN AN INSTANT, THE PATRONS OF THE CASINO ARE SCRAMBLING FOR THE SCATTERED BILLS...
A C-NOTE! HERE'S MY CHANCE TO RECOUP MY LOSSES!
THEY'RE TAKIN' ALL THE DOUGH!
AND THEY'RE WRECKIN' THE JOINT! ZUCCO AIN'T GONNA LIKE THIS!

ADIEU, GENTLEMEN! TELL BOSS ZUCCO I CALLED!

AN HOUR LATER, AT ZUCCO'S PLACE...
THE BATMAN'S BEEN BEATIN' UP OUR STRONG-ARM BOYS... WRECKIN' OUR CASINO AND SLOT MACHINES...
THE BATMAN! SHUT UP! WE'RE GONNA GET THAT CREEP...
BOSS, THIS PACKAGE JUST CAME FOR YA!

AS BLADE OPENS THE PARCEL...
SKREEEE
WELL, I'LL BE... IT'S A BAT!
THAT'S THE BATMAN'S TRADEMARK!

A NOTE WAS INSIDE!
GET OUT OF TOWN, ZUCCO! I KNOW YOU ARE TRYING TO GET PROTECTION MONEY FROM THE COMPANY THAT IS PUTTING UP THE CANIN BUILDING. STAY AWAY! THAT BUILDING IS UNDER MY PERSONAL PROTECTION.

I'M STILL BOSS OF THIS TOWN! NOBODY TELLS ME WHAT TO DO! C'MON, BOYS! WE'RE GOING TO THE CANIN BUILDING!

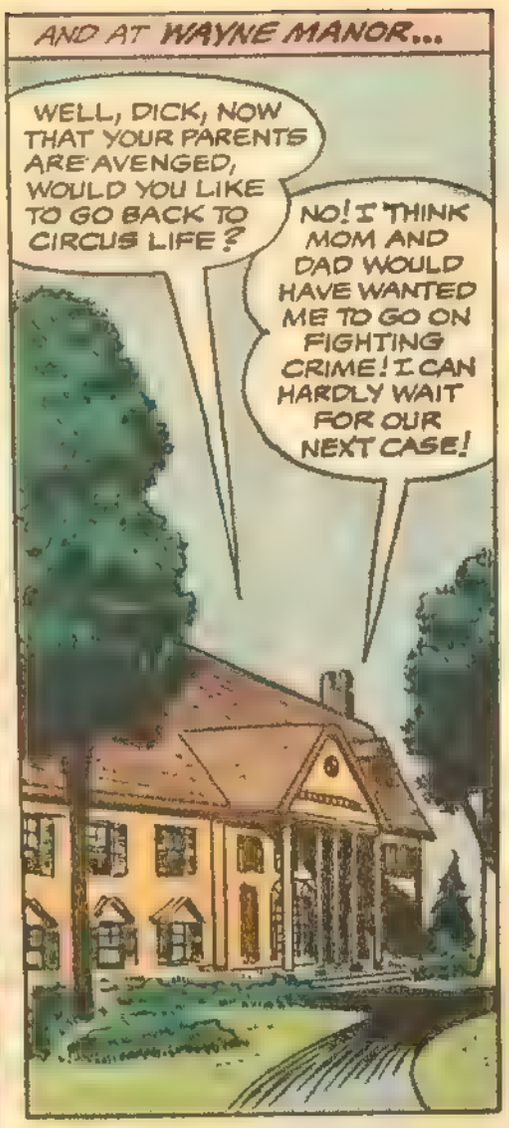
BUT AS THE CAR LEAVES, A COLORFUL FIGURE CLINGS TO THE REAR BUMPER...
IT WORKED! BATMAN GOT ZUCCO SO MAD HE'S GOING TO DO THE JOB PERSONALLY! WE'LL CATCH HIM IN THE ACT!
AT THE CANIN BUILDING...
OKAY! I TIED UP THE NIGHT WATCH-MAN!
GOOD! YOU STAY DOWN HERE AS GUARD! I'M ABOUT TO SHOW THE CONTRACTOR WHAT HAPPENS TO GUYS WHO DON'T PAY OFF! GOT THE DYNAMITE, BLADE?
AS ZUCCO AND HIS MEN ASCEND IN THE ELEVATOR, A PINT-SIZED POWERHOUSE STREAKS FROM THE SHADOWS, AND...
HEY... UUUUHH!
KLONK
SORRY, FELLA, BUT I'M GOING UP... AND I'D RATHER DO IT UNANNOUNCED!
SOON, HIGH ABOVE...
WE'LL JUST BLOW OFF THE TOP OF THE BUILDING TO SCARE THE COMPANY INTO PAYING! IF THEY DON'T...
BOSS-- LOOK OVER THERE ...SOMEONE ON THAT GIRDER...
A SNOOPER, EH? COOL HIM! WE DON'T WANT ANY WITNESSES!
BWEEE
RIGHT BOSS!
AS THE SHOT WHISTLES PAST, ROBIN TAKES A STONE FROM HIS UTILITY BELT AND PLACES IT IN A SLING...
LIKE DAVID FIGHTING GOLIATH, THE BOY WONDER AIMS THE SLING, AND...
BULL'S-EYE!
OWW! UNNNFF!
8

AN AMAZING LEAP...
POW
KPOW
...A SWEEPING SWING...
...AND THE YOUNG DAREDEVIL BARRELS RIGHT INTO THE MURDEROUS GUNMEN...
WH-WHY, IT'S ONLY A KID!
BUT AS HE BATTLES THE SURPRISED KILLERS, ROBIN SLIPS...
Y-YIPES
THE TEEN-AGE THUNDERBOLT CATCHES ONTO A GIRDER AT THE LAST SPLIT-SECOND, BUT...
A WISE KID, EH? LET'S SEE YOU GET OUT OF THIS!
9

BUT SWINGING ONTO THE SCENE COMES THE BATMAN!
MIND IF I DROP IN ON THE PARTY, ZUCCO? SORRY I DON'T HAVE AN INVITATION...
YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHAT A PLEASURE THIS GIVES ME!
PANICKED BY THE BATMAN'S ARRIVAL, BLADE FLEES...
I DON'T AIM TO TANGLE WITH THE BATMAN! I'M CLEARIN' OUTTA HERE!
SUDDENLY, A ROPE LOOPS ABOUT BLADE AND JERKS HIM OF THE GIRDER...
HEY... WHAT...?
AS THE GANGSTER DANGLES HELPLESSLY WITH ONLY EMPTY SPACE BETWEEN HIMSELF AND THE GROUND, THE BATMAN PRODUCE A SMALL VIAL...
KNOW WHAT'S IN THIS VIAL, BLADE? ACID... THE SAME KIND YOU PUT ON THE GRAYSONS' TRAPEZE! IT WOULD BE TOO BAD IF I SPILLED IT ON THIS ROPE...
NO! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY! PULL ME UP!
10

THE TERRIFIED HOOD DICTATES AND SIGNS A FULL CONFESSION...
THERE IT IS... THE WHOLE THING... HOW ZUCCO PUT ME UP TO IT... I'LL SWEAR TO IT IN COURT!
YOU DIRTY SQUEALER!
WITH A SWIFT MOTION, THE CORPULANT CRIME-CHIEF HURLS HIS HUGE BULK AT THE GOTHAM GOLIATH...
OUT OF MY WAY, BAT-RAT!
OOOFF!
AND BEFORE BATMAN CAN RECOVER...
STOOLIE! NOBODY RATS ON ME AND GETS AWAY WITH IT!
YAAHH!
I'M TOO FAR AWAY TO SAVE BLADE, BUT I CAN DO THIS...
QUICK THINKING, ROBIN! WE HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE NOW!
WHAT EVIDENCE? BLADE CAN'T BACK UP HIS CONFESSION IF HE'S DEAD!
I COULDN'T RESCUE BLADE... BUT I USED THE MINIATURE INFRA-RED CAMERA FROM MY UTILITY BELT TO SNAP YOU PUSHING HIM! THIS BABY TAKES PERFECT SHOTS... EVEN AT NIGHT!
YOU'RE THROUGH, ZUCCO! YOUR NEW "BOSS" WILL BE... THE ELECTRIC CHAIR!
11

AND SO, THANKS TO THE WORK OF FAKE NEWSBOY DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON, OTHER NEWSBOYS IN NEWTOWN SOON HAVE AN EXCITING HEADLINE...
EXTRA! ZUCCO FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER, SENTENCED TO CHAIR! NEW ADMINISTRATION TO CLEAN UP CITY POLITICS! EXTRA!
EXTRA!!
12

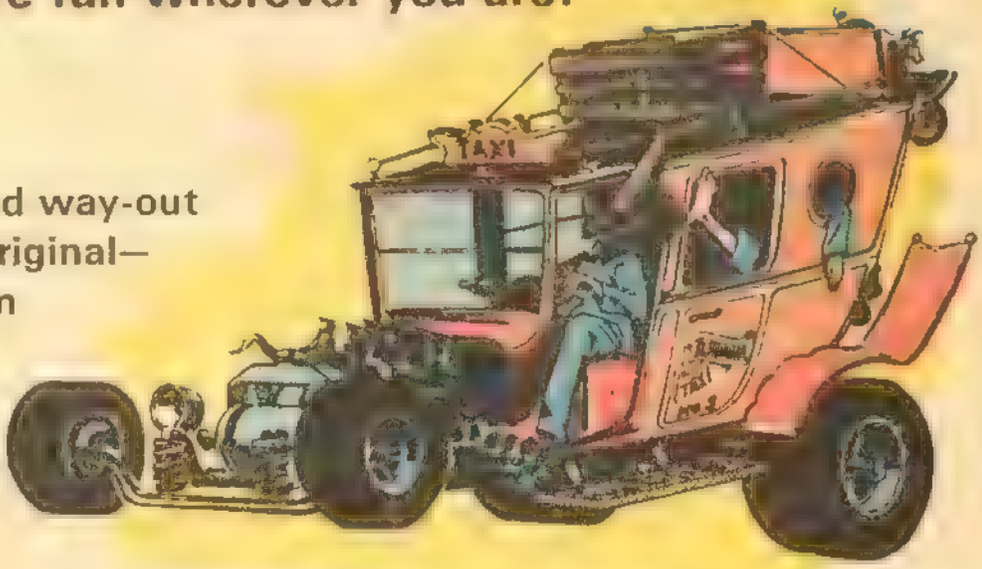

AND AT WAYNE MANOR...
WELL, DICK, NOW THAT YOUR PARENTS ARE AVENGED, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO BACK TO CIRCUS LIFE?
NO! I THINK MOM AND DAD WOULD HAVE WANTED ME TO GO ON FIGHTING CRIME! I CAN HARDLY WAIT FOR OUR NEXT CASE!

I HADN'T INTENDED FOR YOU TO CONTINUE YOUR ROBIN CAREER! YOU TACKLED THOSE CROOKS... EVEN BEFORE I GOT THERE... BECAUSE YOU WERE MAD CLEAN THROUGH! STILL, I'LL GIVE YOU A CHANCE... BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO STUDY HARD!
I CAN DO IT! I'LL MAKE YOU PROUD OF ME, BRUCE!
DICK DID MAKE THE GRADE, AND WON THE RIGHT TO BE BATMAN'S PERMANENT PARTNER! The End

TAKE A TIJUANA TAXI

It's more fun wherever you are!

New! Crazy like, wild and way-out custom. A Tom Daniel original—exclusively by Monogram



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LET THE SECRET TRIAL BEGIN!
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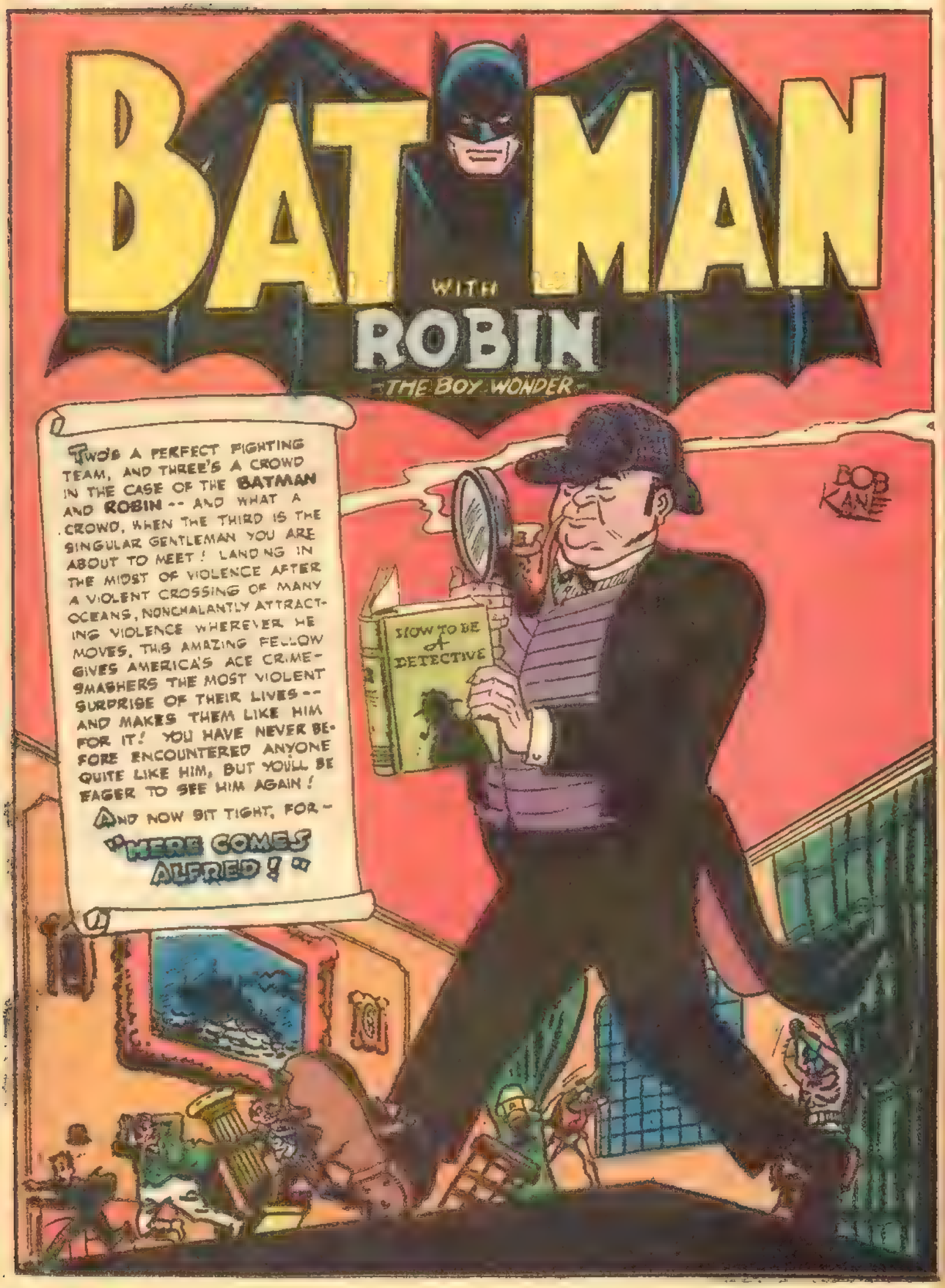

BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
TWO'S A PERFECT FIGHTING TEAM, AND THREE'S A CROWD IN THE CASE OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN -- AND WHAT A CROWD, WHEN THE THIRD IS THE SINGULAR GENTLEMAN YOU ARE ABOUT TO MEET! LANDING IN THE MIDST OF VIOLENCE AFTER A VIOLENT CROSSING OF MANY OCEANS, NONCHALANTLY ATTRACTING VIOLENCE WHEREVER HE MOVES, THIS AMAZING FELLOW GIVES AMERICA'S ACE CRIME-SMASHERS THE MOST VIOLENT SURPRISE OF THEIR LIVES -- AND MAKES THEM LIKE HIM FOR IT! YOU HAVE NEVER BEFORE ENCOUNTERED ANYONE QUITE LIKE HIM, BUT YOU'LL BE EAGER TO SEE HIM AGAIN!
AND NOW SIT TIGHT, FOR -
"HERE COMES ALFRED!"
BOB KANE
HOW TO BE A DETECTIVE

NIGHT--AND A SMALL PASSENGER VESSEL ENDS A PERILOUS WARTIME CROSSING OF THE ATLANTIC AT A GOTHAM CITY PIER...

TWO SHIPBOARD ACQUAINTANCES SAY GOODBYE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE HAND OF FATE WILL CAST THEM TOGETHER AGAIN SOONER THAN THEY THINK...

THE PARTIN' OF THE 'WAYS, MR. LEDUC! IT'S BEEN A PLEASURE TALKIN' TO YOU--AND I WISH YOU THE BEST, AND ALL THAT BALLY TOSH!

AH, MY ENGLISH FRIEND, I HOPE YOU FIND HAPPINESS AND SUCCESS IN THIS STRANGE LAND OF AMERICA!

YOU'RE GASTON LEDUC, EH? AND THIS IS YOUR PERMIT TO ENTER THE COUNTRY WITHOUT UNDERGOING INSPECTION... ALL RIGHT--YOU MAY PASS!

CUSTOMS INSPECTION

"HOW TO BE A DETECTIVE IN TEN EASY LESSONS"... SO YOU'RE A SLEUTH?

AND RAWTHER GOOD AT IT, IF I DO SAY SO!

HMMM... I'VE KNOWN ALL ALONG THERE WAS SOMETHIN' MYSTERIOUS ABOUT THAT GENTLEMAN!

TRY AS I WOULD I COULDN'T MAKE HIM TALK ABOUT HIMSELF! I'VE HALF A MIND TO FOLLOW HIM NOW!

WELL, IT'S A FREE COUNTRY, AND YOU'RE IN IT! ...NEXT!

AT THE PIER EXIT, THREE SWARTHY INDIVIDUALS WATCH THE NEW ARRIVALS WITH BEADY, GLITTERING EYES...

ON GUARD! IF YOU MISS OUR MAN, MY DAGGER WILL NOT MISS YOUR SCRAWNY BODIES!

I AM NOT AFRAID, MANUEL! MY EYES ARE AS KEEN AS YOUR KNIVES!

AND IN TURN, THE WATCHERS ARE WATCHED BY TWO DARK FIGURES THAT BLEND OMINOUSLY WITH THE SHADOWS!

SO THAT'S MANUEL STILETTI, THE INTERNATIONAL CROOK! WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'S UP TO, BATMAN?

THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO FIND OUT! ALL I KNOW IS, WHENEVER MANUEL AND HIS CUTTHROATS ARE ON THE PROWL, TROUBLE ISN'T FAR AWAY!

PRESENTLY...

I'M TWO YEARS LATE ALREADY, SO IT WON'T MATTER IF I TAKE AN HOUR OR TWO MORE TO FOLLOW LEDUC AND SATISFY MY CURIOSITY!

STEAMER

PIER 2

B

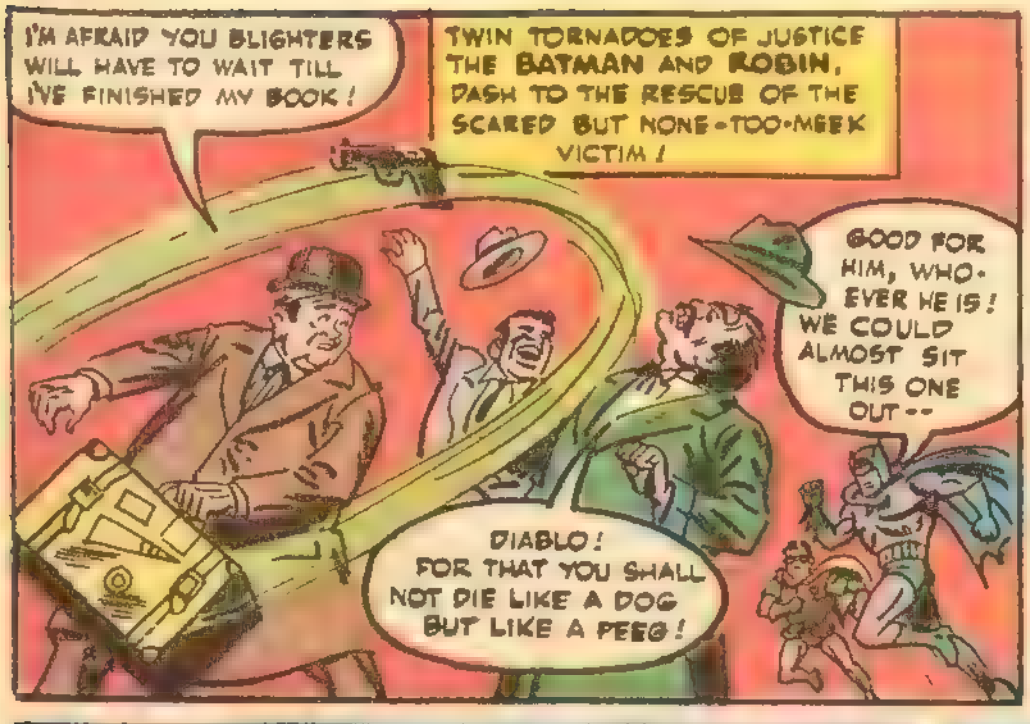
IT IS HE! REGARD THE VALISE!

HE SHALL NOT ESCAPE US!

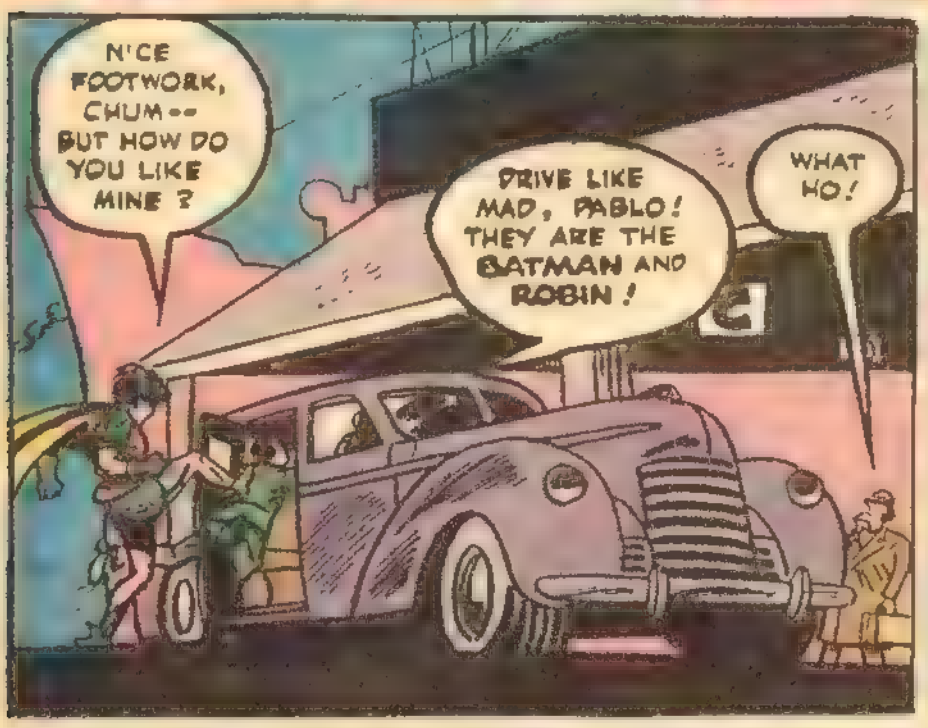
GIVE ME THE VALISE QUIETLY, AMIGO, AND PERHAPS I SHALL LET YOU LIVE!

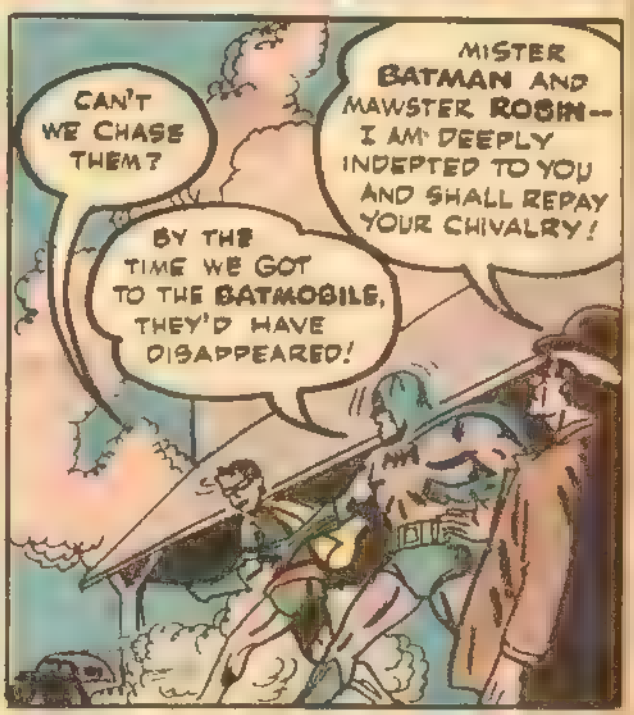
OTHERWISE, YOU ARE DEAD LIKE A DOG!

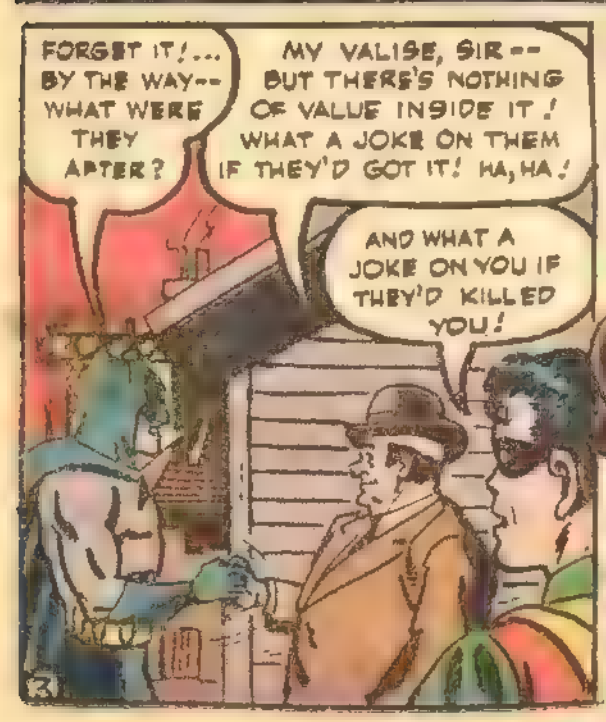
EH--WHAT?...OH-H-H A BALLY STICKUP, SUCH AS I'VE SEEN IN THE CINEMA!...

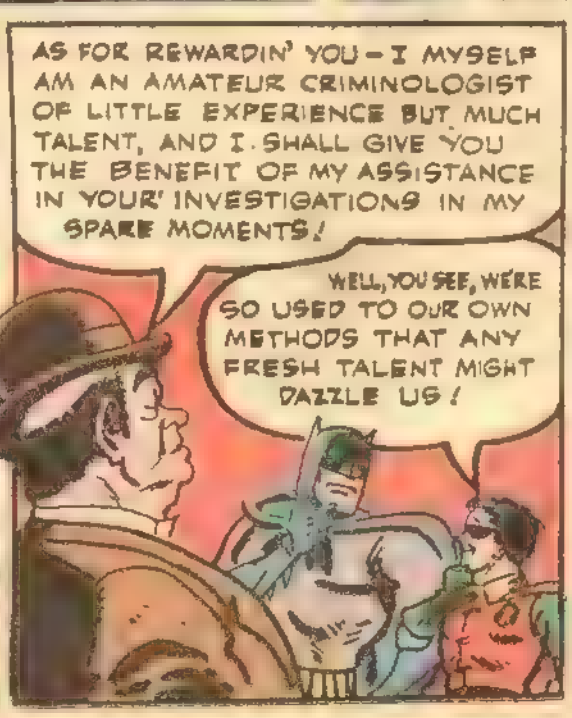

I'M AFRAID YOU BLIGHTERS WILL HAVE TO WAIT TILL I'VE FINISHED MY BOOK!
TWIN TORNADOES OF JUSTICE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, DASH TO THE RESCUE OF THE SCARED BUT NONE-TOO-MEEK VICTIM!
GOOD FOR HIM, WHOEVER HE IS! WE COULD ALMOST SIT THIS ONE OUT--
DIABLO! FOR THAT YOU SHALL NOT DIE LIKE A DOG BUT LIKE A PEEG!

-- BUT IT ISN'T EVERY DAY I GET A CHANCE TO PUT MY MARK ON A FAT RAT LIKE MANUEL STILETTI!
MY WORD!


NICE FOOTWORK, CHUM-- BUT HOW DO YOU LIKE MINE?
DRIVE LIKE MAD, PABLO! THEY ARE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
WHAT HO!


CAN'T WE CHASE THEM?
BY THE TIME WE GOT TO THE BATMOBILE, THEY'D HAVE DISAPPEARED!
MISTER BATMAN AND MAWSTER ROBIN-- I AM DEEPLY INDEPTED TO YOU AND SHALL REPAY YOUR CHIVALRY!

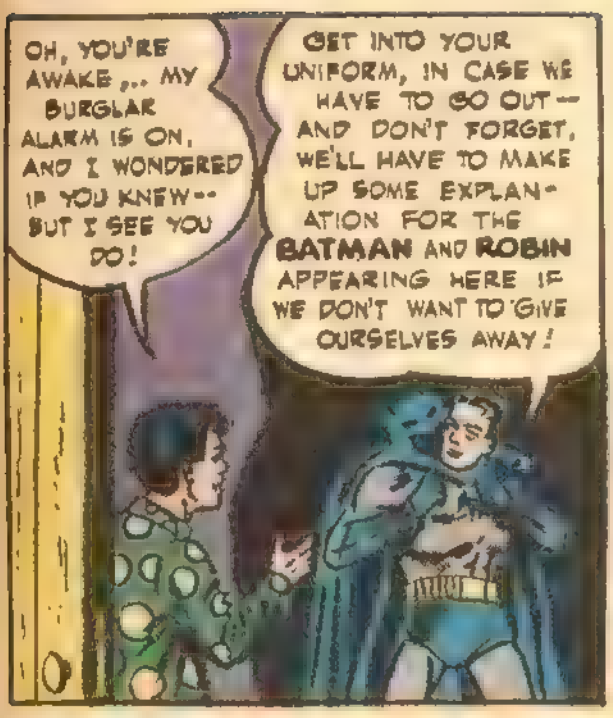

FORGET IT!... BY THE WAY-- WHAT WERE THEY AFTER?
MY VALISE, SIR-- BUT THERE'S NOTHING OF VALUE INSIDE IT! WHAT A JOKE ON THEM IF THEY'D GOT IT! HA, HA!
AND WHAT A JOKE ON YOU IF THEY'D KILLED YOU!

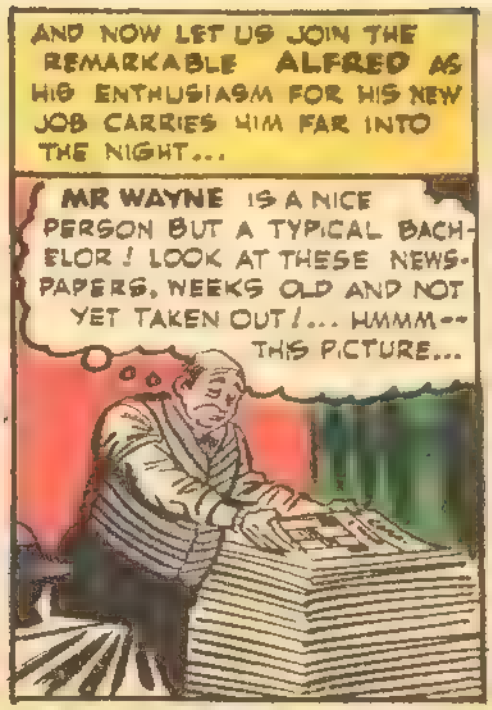

AS FOR REWARDIN' YOU - I MYSELF AM AN AMATEUR CRIMINOLOGIST OF LITTLE EXPERIENCE BUT MUCH TALENT, AND I SHALL GIVE YOU THE BENEFIT OF MY ASSISTANCE IN YOUR INVESTIGATIONS IN MY SPARE MOMENTS!
WELL, YOU SEE, WE'RE SO USED TO OUR OWN METHODS THAT ANY FRESH TALENT MIGHT DAZZLE US!

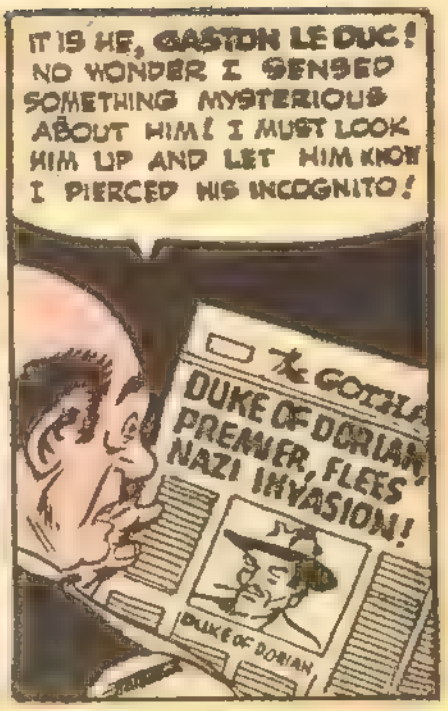
BUT YOU MIGHT CALL ON US SOMETIME AND TALK IT OVER!
BY JOVE, I SHALL! YOU MAY EXPECT ME AS SOON AS I HAVE ATTENDED TO A LITTLE MATTER OF BUSINESS!

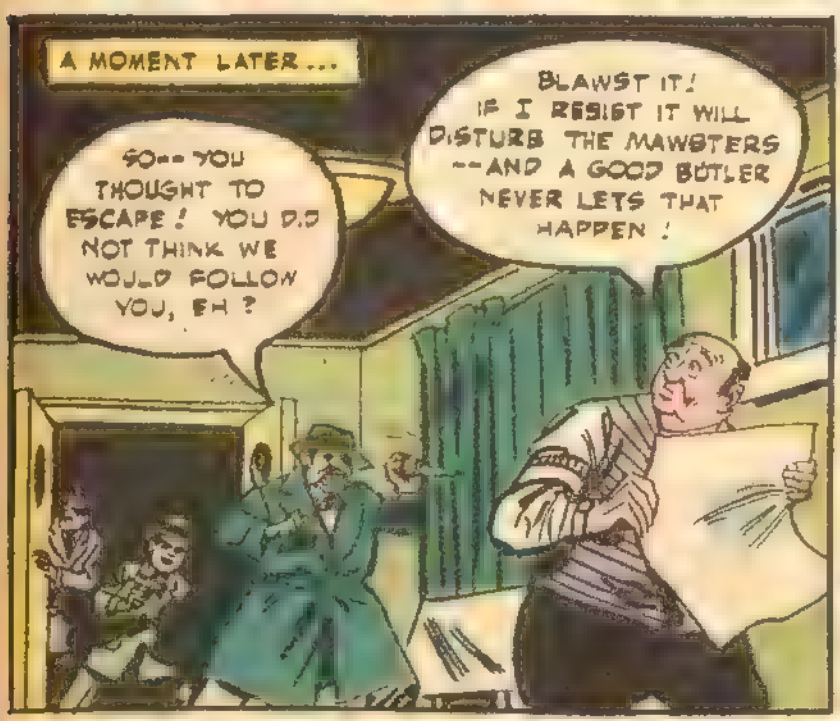
LATER, AS THE ADVENTURERS PREPARE TO GO TO BED...
THAT WAS A GOOD ONE, BRUCE-- TELLING HIM TO CALL ON US, WHEN NOBODY KNOWS WHO THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE, OR WHERE THEY LIVE!
OH WELL--MAYBE HE FANCIES HE'S SMART ENOUGH TO FIND US!
IMAGINE A DIMWIT LIKE HIM FINDING US WHEN SOME OF THE SMARTEST MEN IN THE WORLD HAVE TRIED AND FAILED!... OH, OH-- SOMEONE'S AT THE DOOR!
I'LL ANSWER IT!
R-I-N-G-G-G!!
WHO CAN IT BE AT THIS HOUR?
PROBABLY SOME OF YOUR NIGHT-OWL SOCIETY FRENDS!
THE NEXT INSTANT...
GOOD EVENIN', GENTLEMEN! I TRUST I HAVEN'T DISTURBED YOUR REST!
HUH?
I'LL JUST SET MY LUGGAGE DOWN, IF YOU'LL PERMIT ME-- AND THEN WE'LL DISCUSS MY DUTIES!
WHAT A TIME I HAD GETTIN' HERE, MR. WAYNE! IT WAS NECESSARY TO WAIT A YEAR FOR A SHIP IN ENGLAND-AND THE ONE I FINALLY GOT, STARTED BY WAY OF THE INDIAN OCEAN!
BUT-- BUT-- BUT--
TWO SHIPS WERE TORPEDOED UNDER ME AND I SPENT A FORTNIGHT ADRIFT ON A LIFE RAFT! BUT MY MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE HAPPENED WITHIN THE HOUR, WHEN THUGS ATTACKED ME AND THE BATMAN AND ROBIN DROVE THEM OFF!
WHY, THEN-- YOU DIDN'T KNOW--
QUIET, DICK!
I'VE ALWAYS ADMIRED THE BATMAN AS A BROTHER CRIMINOLOGIST, Y'KNOW-- BUT WOULD YOU BELIEVE IT, WHEN HE AWSKED ME TO CALL, I QUITE FORGOT TO AWSK HIS ADDRESS!
WELL!
4

QUITE A TIME YOU'VE HAD! BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, MR--ER--ER?
YOU MAY CALL ME "ALFRED" WITHOUT THE "MISTER" --AND IT'S I WHO WILL DO FOR YOU! YOU SEE, I'M YOUR NEW BUTLER!
BUTLER! BUT I HAVEN'T HAD ONE IN YEARS! I DIDN'T SEND FOR ONE, AND I'M AFRAID, I DON'T WANT ONE!
WE'VE FOUND WE CAN GET ALONG BETTER WITHOUT SERVANTS OF ANY KIND!
IT MAY BE A BIT AWKWARD AT FIRST, SIR-- BUT I DARE SAY YOU'LL GET USED TO ME!
YOU MAY REMEMBER MY FATHER, JARVIS, WHO WAS YOUR FATHER'S BUTLER FOR MANY YEARS! THE POOR OLD GENTLEMAN WAS HEARTBROKEN WHEN I FORSOOK THE FAMILY CALLING TO BE AN ACTOR IN THE MUSIC HALLS!
SO YOU'RE THE SON OF GOOD OLD JARVIS! HOW IS HE?
GONE, SIR... AND ON HIS DEATHBED, HE MADE ME PROMISE TO MEND MY WAYS AND COME TO YOUR HOUSE IN AMERICA! SO YOU SEE, EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT ME, THERE ISN'T ANY HELP FOR IT!
UH-- WELL--
BUT I MUSTN'T KEEP YOU STANDING HERE IN YOUR BAWTHROBES... I'LL TURN DOWN THE BEDS AND MAKE THINGS READY FOR THE NIGHT!
AND I THOUGHT I'D SEEN PRETTY NEAR EVERYTHING!
BUT WE CAN'T HAVE HIM DOING HIS AMATEUR SLEUTHING HERE! IF HE SHOULD FIND OUR SECRET LABORATORY AND THE TUNNEL TO THE BAT-PLANE HANGAR, HE'D REALLY KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN!
YOU'RE RIGHT... BUT I HAVEN'T THE HEART TO SEND HIM PACKING TONIGHT! I'LL THINK OF SOMETHING IN THE MORNING!
BUT BEFORE DAWN A FURTIVE TRIO APPROACHES THE WAYNE HOME...
THIS IS UNTHINKABLE... THAT WE SHOULD FAIL! IF WE DO NOT GET THE VALISE TONIGHT, MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WILL SLIP THROUGH OUR FINGERS!
RATHER WOULD I ROT IN PRISON THAN HAVE THAT HAPPEN!
AND A SILENT BEAM OF LIGHT AWAKENS BRUCE!
WHA--? MY SPECIAL BURGLAR ALARM! SOMEONE HAS FORCED OPEN ONE OF THE EAST WINDOWS!
5

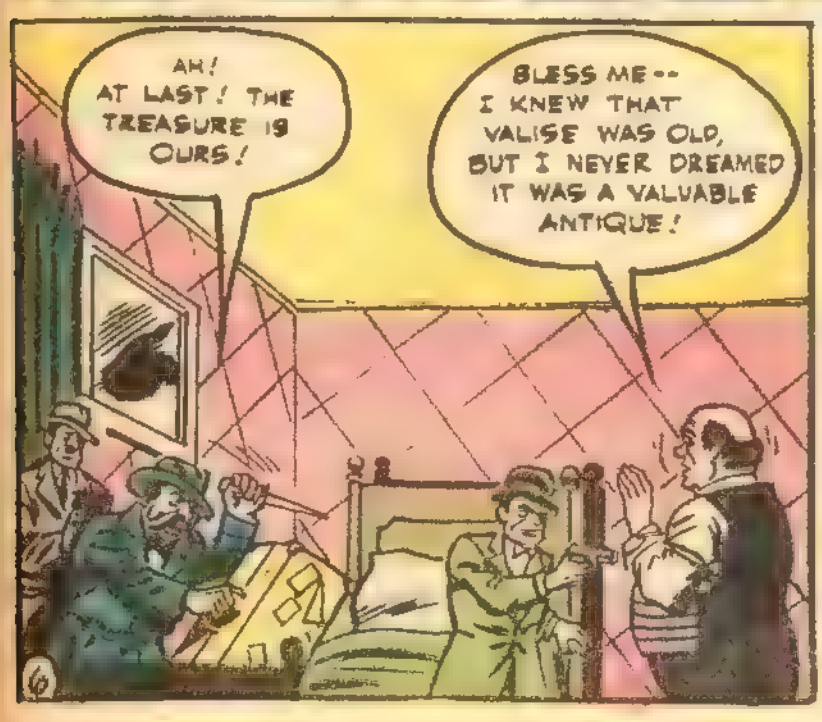

OH, YOU'RE AWAKE... MY BURGLAR ALARM IS ON, AND I WONDERED IF YOU KNEW-- BUT I SEE YOU DO!
GET INTO YOUR UNIFORM, IN CASE WE HAVE TO GO OUT-- AND DON'T FORGET, WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE UP SOME EXPLANATION FOR THE BATMAN AND ROBIN APPEARING HERE IF WE DON'T WANT TO GIVE OURSELVES AWAY!

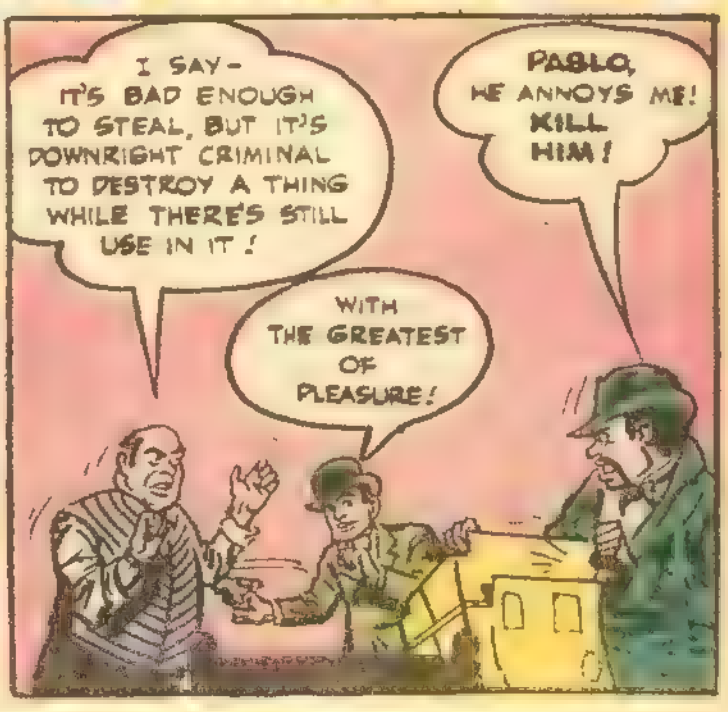

AND NOW LET US JOIN THE REMARKABLE ALFRED AS HIS ENTHUSIASM FOR HIS NEW JOB CARRIES HIM FAR INTO THE NIGHT...
MR WAYNE IS A NICE PERSON BUT A TYPICAL BACHELOR! LOOK AT THESE NEWSPAPERS, WEEKS OLD AND NOT YET TAKEN OUT!... HMMM-- THIS PICTURE...


IT IS HE, GASTON LE DUC! NO WONDER I SENSED SOMETHING MYSTERIOUS ABOUT HIM! I MUST LOOK HIM UP AND LET HIM KNOW I PIERCED HIS INCOGNITO!
DUKE OF DORIAN, PREMIER, FLEES NAZI INVASION!
DUKE OF DORIAN


A MOMENT LATER...
SO-- YOU THOUGHT TO ESCAPE! YOU DID NOT THINK WE WOULD FOLLOW YOU, EH?
BLAWST IT! IF I RESIST IT WILL DISTURB THE MAWSTERS --AND A GOOD BUTLER NEVER LETS THAT HAPPEN!

THERE IS NO BATMAN TO SAVE YOU NOW, ENGLISH DOLT! LEAD US TO THE VALISE BEFORE MY TRIGGER FINGER BECOMES IMPATIENT!
IT'S IN THIS ROOM!... YOU CAN HAVE IT --B-BUT P-PLEASE DON'T KILL ME!


AH! AT LAST! THE TREASURE IS OURS!
BLESS ME-- I KNEW THAT VALISE WAS OLD, BUT I NEVER DREAMED IT WAS A VALUABLE ANTIQUE!


I SAY- IT'S BAD ENOUGH TO STEAL, BUT IT'S DOWNRIGHT CRIMINAL TO DESTROY A THING WHILE THERE'S STILL USE IN IT!
PABLO, HE ANNOYS ME! KILL HIM!
WITH THE GREATEST OF PLEASURE!

SUDDENLY...
YOU ROTTEN MURDERERS! DIDN'T THINK I COULD FOLLOW YOU, DID YOU?
I SAY, OLD CHAP, YOU'RE CERTAINLY WELCOME!
YOU AGAIN!
YOU ARE AS GOOD AS DEAD, BATMAN! MANUEL NEVER MISSES!
I'LL BET YOU GET A KICK OUT OF THIS!
YIPE!
WELL, HARDLY EVER!
WHAT -- ?... I SHALL HAVE REVENGE FOR THIS, BRAT!
HAW! DEUCED CLEVER!
JUST TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR FULL QUOTA OF BAD LUCK!
I AM ASSASSINATED!
THOSE OF THE CRIMINALS WHO ARE STILL ABLE, EXIT WITH INELEGANT HASTE...
WAIT, TOMAS! YOUR LEADER SHOULD GO FIRST!
THEY'RE GETTING AWAY! COME ON, ROBIN!
THEY'RE GETTING INTO A CAR! I'LL GET THE BATMOBILE!
BETTER TIE THIS FELLOW BEFORE HE COMES TO!
YES, SIR! AND ABOUT YOUR ADDRESS--
STRANGE... HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HEAR ME AWSKING WHERE HE LIVES!... OH, WELL -- I'LL SEE WHETHER MR. WAYNE AND MAWSTER DICK HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY THE NOISE AND TIE UP THIS BLIGHTER LATER!

PRESENTLY...
MAWSTER DICK IS NOT IN HIS ROOM... AND MR. BRUCE HAS VANISHED ALSO! HERE IS A MYSTERY WORTHY OF MY GREATEST TALENTS!
I SHALL CONSULT MY DETECTIVE BOOK AND -- EH, WHAT! 'PON MY SOUL, THE BLIGHTER HAS REVIVED AND IS COMIN' AWFTER ME!
SO---THE PLEASURE OF KILLING YOU HAS BEEN DELAYED, BUT NOT LOST!
A GOOD TROUNCING WILL IMPROVE YOUR MANNERS MY MAN! OUCH!
I HAVE A SHARP ANSWER FOR THAT CLUMSY BLOW!
BONG
WELL, WELL-- IT APPEARS A MISS IS AS GOOD AS A KNOCKOUT! HA, HA -- A JEST! I MUST REPEAT IT FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF MR. WAYNE!
AA-A-A-A!
BUT IN FALLING, THE HEAVY SHIELD HAS STRUCK A CONCEALED TRIGGER, AND RELEASED A SECRET SPRING--AND...
BY JOVE! A SLIDING PANEL AND A SECRET STAIRWAY! IT REMINDS ME OF SOME OF THE OLD CASTLES IN ENGLAND!
CURIOSITY LEADS THE EXTRAORDINARY BUTLER TO INVESTIGATE...
A CRIMINOLOGICAL LABORATORY-- AND A TUNNEL LEADING SOMEWHERE BEYOND!
IN AN UNDERGROUND HANGAR... A LIGHT IS SWITCHED ON....
A PLANE WITH BAT-SHAPED WINGS! IT MUST BE THE FAMOUS BATPLANE I'VE HEARD SO MUCH ABOUT! I DO BELIEVE I'M GOING TO MAKE AN AMAZING DEDUCTION...
THERE CAWN'T BE ANY DOUBT ABOUT IT -- MR. BRUCE WAYNE IS THE BATMAN, AND THE YOUNG MAWSTER IS ROBIN! HOW CLEVER OF ME TO HAVE DISCOVERED IT--AND HOW FORTUNATE THEY ARE TO HAVE A MAN OF MY ABILITIES IN THEIR EMPLOY!

MEANWHILE, NEVER DREAMING THAT THE ALL-IMPORTANT SECRET OF THEIR DOUBLE IDENTITY HAS BEEN PIERCED BY A STROKE OF LUCK, THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** JOIN IN HOT PURSUIT OF THE FLEEING **MANUEL**...

THERE THEY ARE -- TURNING THAT CORNER AHEAD!

STEP ON IT! IF WE DON'T CATCH THEM NOW, WE MAY NEVER HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE!

MOMENTS LATER...

THERE'S THEIR CAR -- BUT WHERE ARE THEY?

I CAN'T THINK OF ANY BETTER HIDEOUT THAN AN ABANDONED THEATER!

BUILDING FOR SALE

STEEL MUSCLES FORCE A LOCKED DOOR, AND THE DYNAMIC DUO VENTURES INTO COBWEB-DRAPED DARKNESS...

SPOOKY PLACE, ISN'T IT? I'LL BET NOBODY'S BEEN HERE FOR YEARS!

YOU'D LOSE YOUR MONEY! EVEN **ALFRED** WOULD KNOW BETTER SEEING THESE FOOTPRINTS IN THE DUST!

BRRR-R-R! I CAN HEAR THE GHOSTS OF DEAD PLAYS MOANING!

THERE'S A STRANGE WHIRRING SOUND COMING FROM SOMEWHERE!

A STRANGE SOUND INDEED -- AND AN OMINOUS ONE -- FOR IT IS MADE BY WHIRRING ENDS OF WEIGHTED ROPES SWUNG BY AN EXPERT HAND IN THE SHADOWS OF A BOX...

NOW, TOMAS!

LOOK OUT! -- ROBIN!

TOO LATE! THE NEXT INSTANT, HISSING COILS WHIP AROUND THE LIMBS AND BODIES OF THE STARTLED CRIME-CRUSHERS...

WHA -- ? A BOLA!

I CAN'T MOVE MY ARMS OR FEET! I'M FALLING!

AS FINE A CAST AS WAS EVER MADE! **NOW TO FINISH THEM!**

NOT YET! LET US DO ALL OUR KILLING AT ONCE, AND DISPOSE OF THE BODIES TOGETHER! THESE STUPID ONES WILL BE SAFE IF WE TIE THEM TIGHTER AND HOIST THEM INTO THE AIR!

BOUND AND GAGGED, THE HAPLESS PRISONERS ARE HOISTED ALOFT...

AT LAST YOU HAVE BEEN OUTWITTED, BATMAN! YOU CANNOT SHOUT FOR HELP--AND IF YOU BREAK YOUR BONDS, YOU WILL BE DASHED TO PIECES BY THE FALL!

SOON WE SHALL BURN THE THEATER ABOUT YOUR EARS -- BUT FIRST, WE SHALL BRING A THIRD VICTIM TO SHARE YOUR FIERY FATE!

WE HAVE LEARNED THE THIRD MAN'S IDENTITY AND PRESENT ADDRESS FROM THE LABELS ON THE VALISE WHICH GAVE US SO MUCH TROUBLE! THEY FORMED A CODE MESSAGE SENT BY OUR CLEVER COLLEAGUES ABROAD!

DEATH FOR YOU AND A VAST FORTUNE FOR US! IS IT NOT DROLL?

LEFT ALONE, THE PLIGHT OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN SEEMS HOPELESS...

WE'VE BEEN IN TIGHT SPOTS BEFORE, BUT I CAN'T SEEM TO RECALL ANY TIGHTER THAN THIS!

IF ONLY THEY HADN'T GAGGED US! IT MIGHT HELP TO TALK THINGS OVER!

OUTSIDE THE ANCIENT THEATER, THE TWO CRIMINALS ARE JOINED BY THEIR COMPANION...

WE THOUGHT THE POLICE WOULD HAVE YOU BY NOW, AND WE WERE HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE YOU WOULD MISS YOUR SHARE OF THE SWAG!

YOU MEAN, YOU'RE HEARTBROKEN BECAUSE I'M HERE TO CLAIM IT!... IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO ESCAPE FROM THAT PIGHEADED BUTLER!

WHILE BEHIND A CONVENIENT BARRIER...

PIGHEADED INDEED! I LET THE BLIGHTER ESCAPE SO I COULD FOLLOW HIM! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN MUST BE INSIDE AND I MAY AS WELL LET THEM SEE THAT I'M ON THE JOB!

OR PERHAPS THE BATMAN HAS BEEN HERE AND GONE... NO SIGN OF HIM...HMMM--QUITE A WHILE SINCE I'VE STOOD BEHIND THE FOOTLIGHTS!

10

"ONCE A MUSIC HALL ACTOR, ALWAYS A HAM," IS A SAYING THAT HOLDS GOOD HERE AS ELSEWHERE...

PUTS ME IN MIND OF THE TIME I PLAYED THE ROLE OF A COCKNEY BUTLER IN A HAUNTED HOUSE... HOW DID IT GO... 'ARK--WOT'S THAT NOISE? CAN IT BE H'ANOTHER SPIRIT COME TO 'AUNT ME?

HIGH OVERHEAD, AN UNAPPRECIATIVE AUDIENCE HEARS LINES OF LOWBROW MELODRAMA...

IF ONLY HE'D FORGET THE CORN AND LOOK THIS WAY!

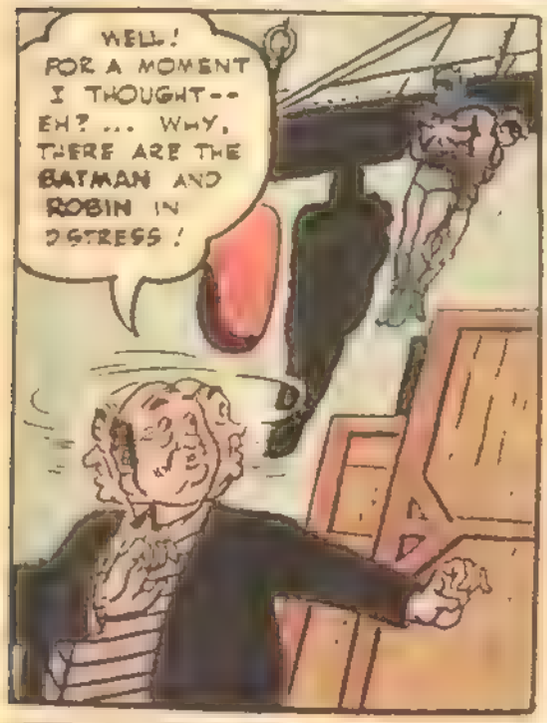
THERE MUST BE SOME WAY TO ATTRACT HIS ATTENTION... MAYBE IF I START SWINGING...

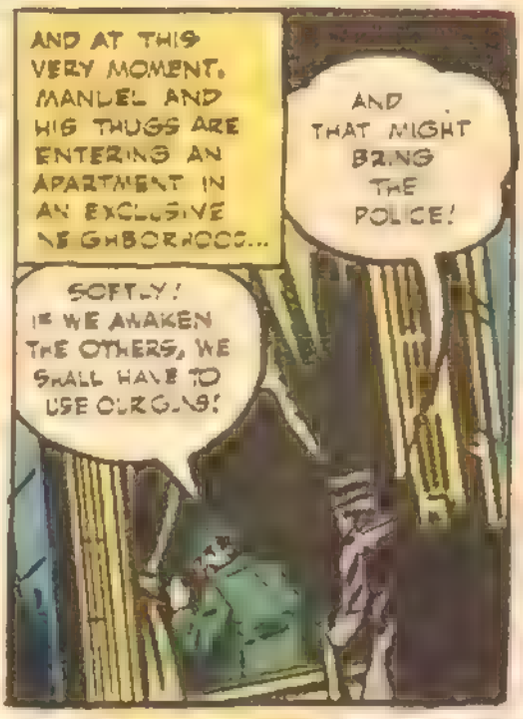
H'I'M FAIR FED H'UP WITH GHOSTS, SO H'I H'AM! H'I SHALL TURN IN MY NOTICE!

BACK AND FORTH, IN EVER-WIDENING SWEEPS, THE BATMAN SWINGS HIS BODY-- UNTIL AT LAST HIS BOUND FEET CATCH ON A LOOSE ROPE...
HERE'S HOPING IT WORKS!
WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO?

WRITHING LIKE A SERPENT, THE ROPE WHIPS ACROSS THE STAGE...
H'AWAY, H'AWAY, YE BLOOMIN' SPECTER! KEEP YER GHOSTLY FINGERS H'OFF ME!

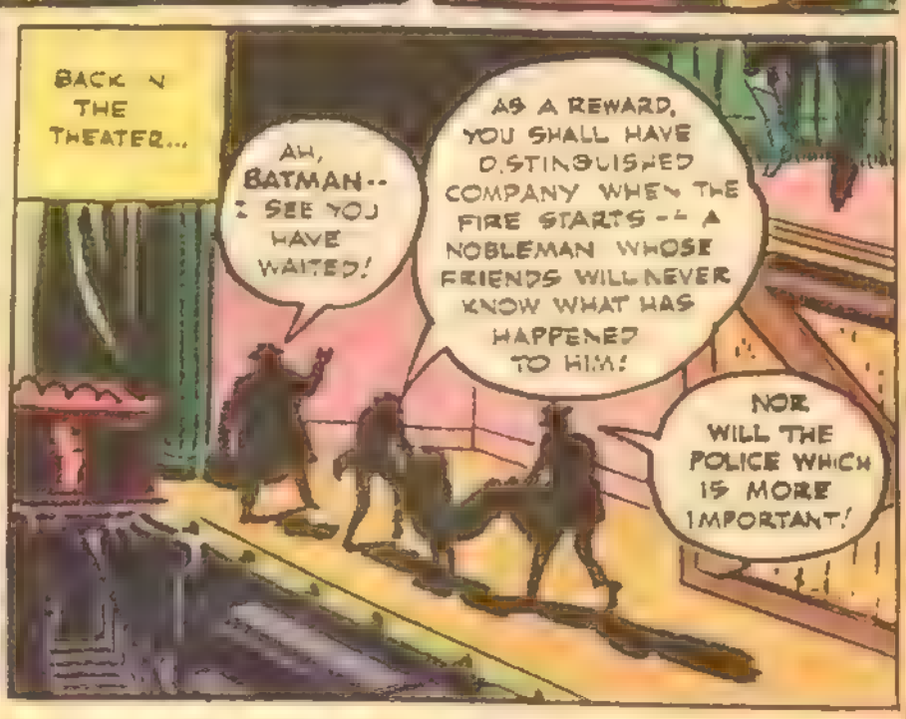
OH-H-H-H! IT'S REALLY HAPPENIN'!
S-W-I-S-H

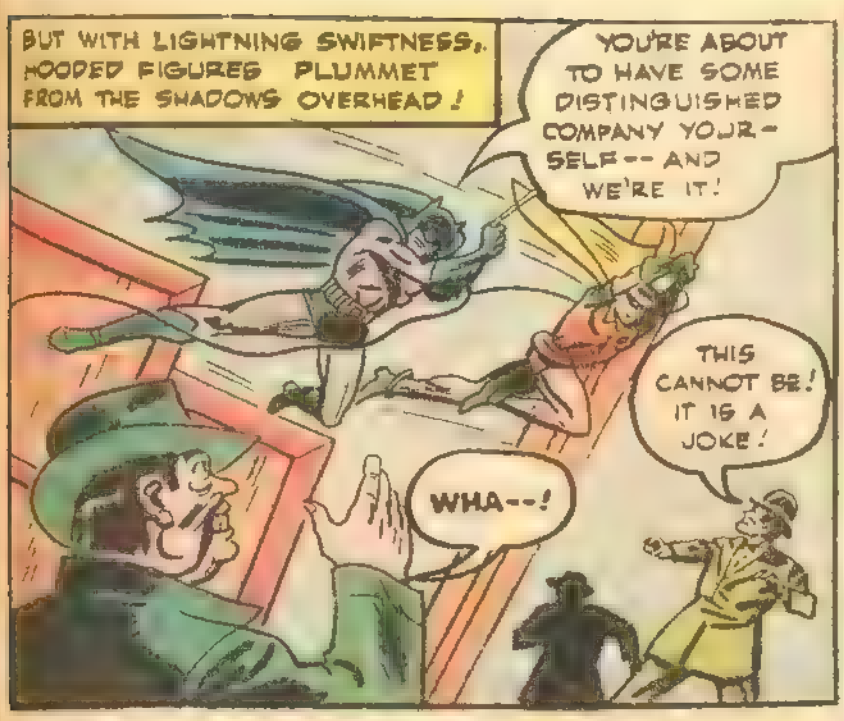

WELL! FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT-- EH? ... WHY, THERE ARE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN IN DISTRESS!


AND AT THIS VERY MOMENT, MANUEL AND HIS THUGS ARE ENTERING AN APARTMENT IN AN EXCLUSIVE NEIGHBORHOOD...
AND THAT MIGHT BRING THE POLICE!
SOFTLY! IF WE AWAKEN THE OTHERS, WE SHALL HAVE TO USE CLUBS!

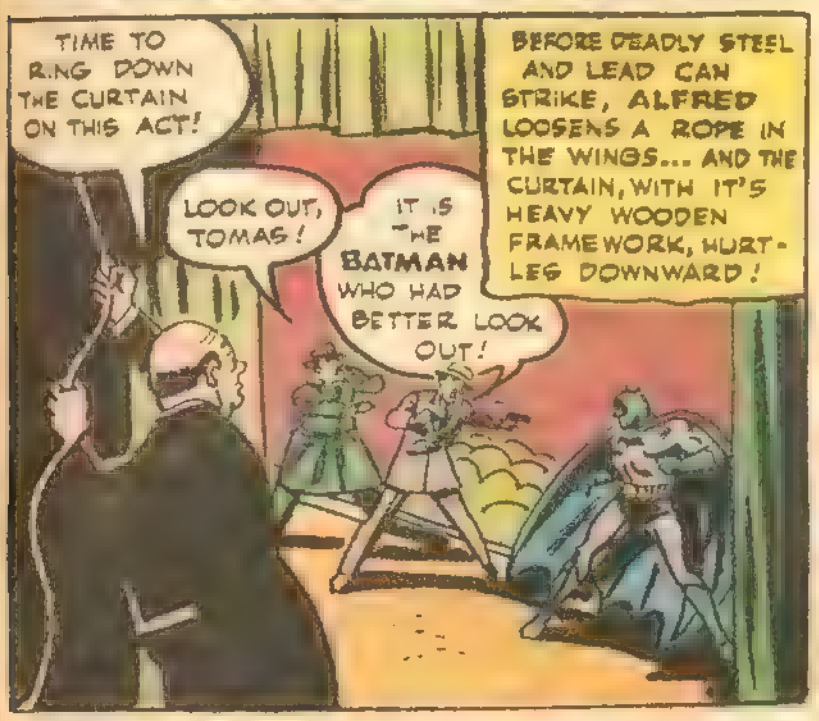
AND ALFRED'S MYSTEROUS FRIEND OF THE SHIP HAS A RUDE AWAKENING...
NOT A SOUND, DUKE, OR YOU ARE A DEAD MAN!
BAH-- WHAT DO WE CARE FOR YOUR GOVERNMENT? SILENCE HIM, PABLO!
NO, YOU MUST NOT TAKE THE CROWN JEWELS! I BROUGHT THEM HERE TO ESTABLISH CREDITS FOR MY GOVERNMENT-IN-EXILE!

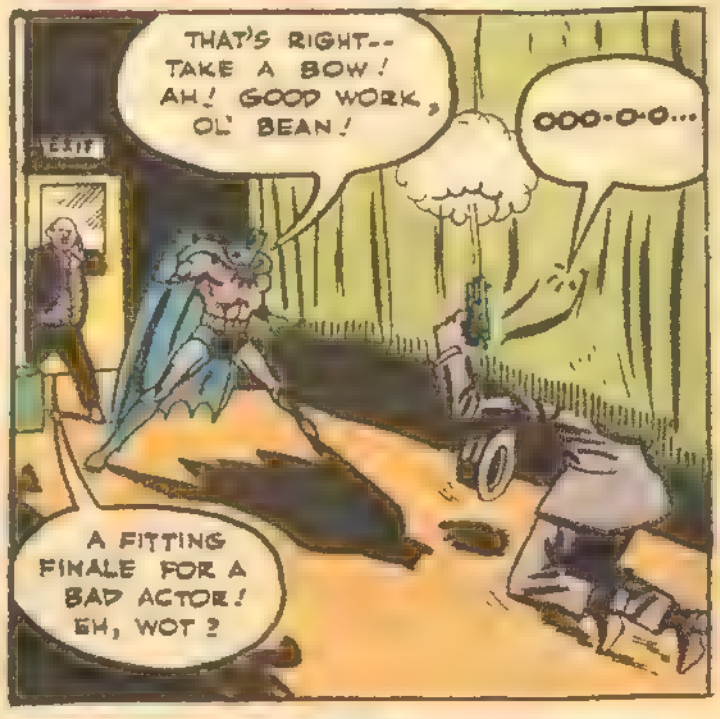
TO THINK HE BROUGHT THOSE JEWELS SECRETLY HALF AROUND THE WORLD, ONLY TO LOSE THEM AT THE END OF THE JOURNEY! IT SHOWS WHAT SHARP EYES AND EARS THE UNDERWORLD HAS!
AND IT SHOWS HOW PROMPTLY WE HAVE ACTED! ANOTHER TWO HOURS AND THE JEWELS WOULD HAVE BEEN IN A SAFE-DEPOSIT VAULT!


BACK IN THE THEATER...
AH, BATMAN-- I SEE YOU HAVE WAITED!
AS A REWARD, YOU SHALL HAVE DISTINGUISHED COMPANY WHEN THE FIRE STARTS -- A NOBLEMAN WHOSE FRIENDS WILL NEVER KNOW WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO HIM!
NOR WILL THE POLICE WHICH IS MORE IMPORTANT!

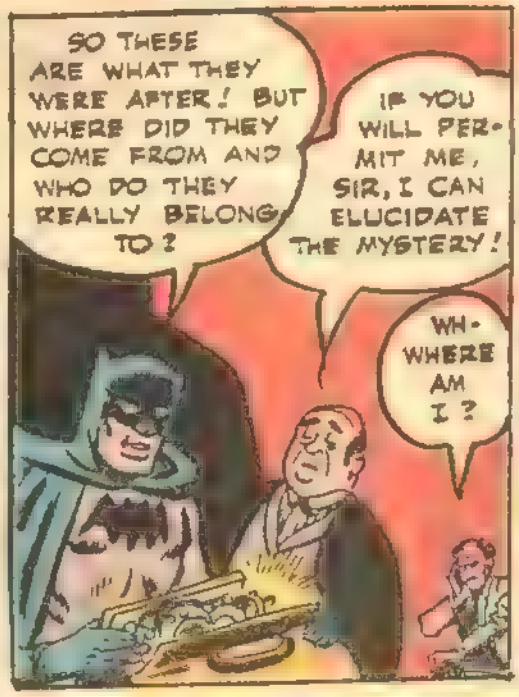

BUT WITH LIGHTNING SWIFTNESS, HOODED FIGURES PLUMMET FROM THE SHADOWS OVERHEAD!
YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE SOME DISTINGUISHED COMPANY YOURSELF -- AND WE'RE IT!
THIS CANNOT BE! IT IS A JOKE!
WHA--!

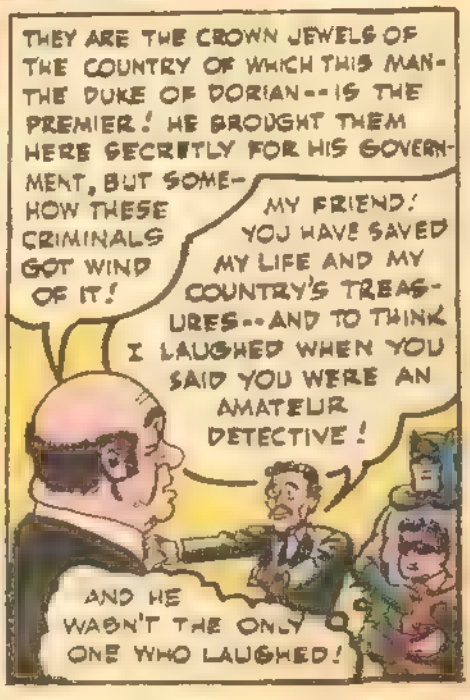
A JOKE ON YOU!
QUICKLY, TOMAS -- KILL THEM OR ALL IS LOST!


TIME TO RING DOWN THE CURTAIN ON THIS ACT!
LOOK OUT, TOMAS!
IT IS THE BATMAN WHO HAD BETTER LOOK OUT!
BEFORE DEADLY STEEL AND LEAD CAN STRIKE, ALFRED LOOSENS A ROPE IN THE WINGS... AND THE CURTAIN, WITH IT'S HEAVY WOODEN FRAMEWORK, HURTLEG DOWNWARD!


THAT'S RIGHT-- TAKE A BOW! AH! GOOD WORK, OL' BEAN!
OOO-O-O...
EXIT
A FITTING FINALE FOR A BAD ACTOR! EH, WOT?

HERE'S AN ALL-STAR ACT TO FINISH THE BILL!


SO THESE ARE WHAT THEY WERE AFTER! BUT WHERE DID THEY COME FROM AND WHO DO THEY REALLY BELONG TO?
IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME, SIR, I CAN ELUCIDATE THE MYSTERY!
WH-WHERE AM I?


THEY ARE THE CROWN JEWELS OF THE COUNTRY OF WHICH THIS MAN- THE DUKE OF DORIAN -- IS THE PREMIER! HE BROUGHT THEM HERE SECRETLY FOR HIS GOVERNMENT, BUT SOMEHOW THESE CRIMINALS GOT WIND OF IT!
MY FRIEND! YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE AND MY COUNTRY'S TREASURES -- AND TO THINK I LAUGHED WHEN YOU SAID YOU WERE AN AMATEUR DETECTIVE!
AND HE WASN'T THE ONLY ONE WHO LAUGHED!

THE FOLLOWING EVENING...

ALFRED'S PRETTY PROUD SINCE WE GAVE HIM FULL CREDIT FOR THIS CASE! I REALLY THOUGHT HE'D DONE A GREAT JOB OF DETECTING, TILL IT TURNED OUT HE GOT ALL HIS INFORMATION BY ACCIDENT!

FOR AWHILE, I WAS AFRAID HE'D FIND OUT WHO WE REALLY ARE-- BUT IF WE'RE CAREFUL, IT WILL BE SAFE TO LET HIM STAY, SINCE HE ISN'T TOO BRIGHT!

GOTHAM GLOBE: WAYNE BUTLER CATCHES CROWN JEWEL THIEVES — ALFRED

BEG PARDON, SIRS... YOU'LL BE GOING OUT DIRECTLY, AND I THOUGHT I MIGHT ASSIST YOU WITH YOUR UNIFORMS!

WHAT'S THIS?

HUH?... THOSE CLOAKS... WHY, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

THE SEARCHLIGHT WENT ON A FEW SECONDS AGO! I BELIEVE IT MEANS THE POLICE REQUIRE THE BATMAN'S SERVICES!

THE SIGNAL!... BUT-- BUT WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH US?

YOU FORGET MY DEDUCTIVE ABILITIES! I HAVE KNOWN SINCE LAST NIGHT THAT YOU WERE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN -- BUT I SAW NO REASON TO MENTION IT TILL NOW!

SOMETHING TELLS ME I WAS WRONG IN WHAT I SAID A MINUTE AGO, BRUCE!

COULD BE!

WELL, YOU'RE ONE OF US NOW, ALFRED! I HOPE YOU REALIZE THAT IF YOUR KNOWLEDGE LEAKED OUT, ROBIN'S LIFE AND MINE WOULD BE FORFEIT. CRIMINALS WOULD HAVE AN EASIER TIME OF IT!

I UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY, AND YOU MAY RELY UTTERLY ON MY DISCRETION! YOUR CLOAK, SIR...

I DON'T THINK WE NEED TO WORRY!

MOMENTS LATER, THE BATPLANE RACES THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY...

AND AS THE DARING HEROES KEEP ANOTHER RENDEZVOUS WITH HIGH ADVENTURE, ALFRED MAKES A COMPROMISE WITH HIS CONSCIENCE!

THEY ARE SO IMPRESSED WITH ME, IT WOULD NEVER DO TO TELL THEM I LEARNED THEIR IDENTITY BY SHEER LUCK! MUCH BETTER TO ACT MYSTERIOUS AND SAY NOTHING!

ALFRED CAN BE USEFUL, AT THAT! HE SAVED OUR LIVES IN THE THEATER! HE MUST BE SMARTER THAN WE THINK TO HAVE SEEN THROUGH OUR DISGUISE!

ALRED LOST WEIGHT AND GREW HIS MUSTACHE IN DETECTIVE NO. 83 (JAN., 1944).

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AURORA

THE BATTLE IS ON... AND ANTHRO IS THE PRIZE!

HAPPINESS WAS WHAT THE STRANGER OFFERED THE WORLD...BUT ALL HE BROUGHT IT WAS... TRAGEDY!

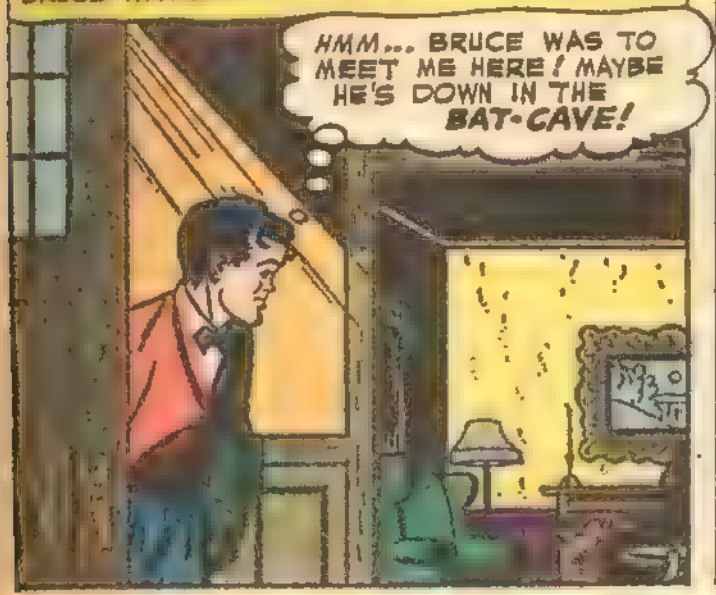
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER

BOB KANE

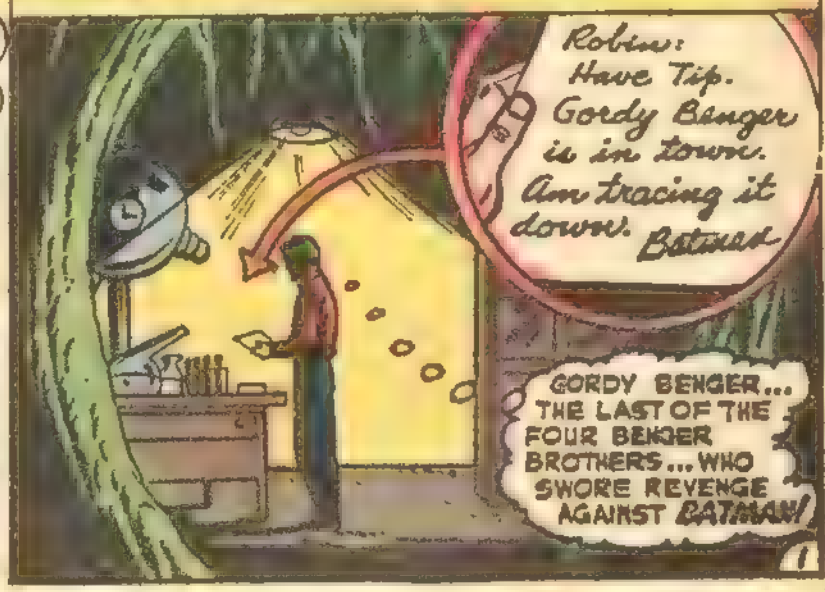
BATMAN, THE CRIME-FIGHTER, WHO HAS SENT SCORES OF MURDEROUS OUTLAWS TO JUSTICE, NOW BEING MADE TO WALK THE LAST MILE HIMSELF! THAT'S THE STRANGE TWIST OF FATE THAT RESULTS WHEN AN UNDERWORLD KILLER SEEKS A BIZARRE REVENGE AGAINST THE FAMED LAWMAN, AND, IRONICALLY, ROBIN THE BOY WONDER IS POWERLESS TO HELP HIS FRIEND IN THE THRILLING DRAMA KNOWN AS...

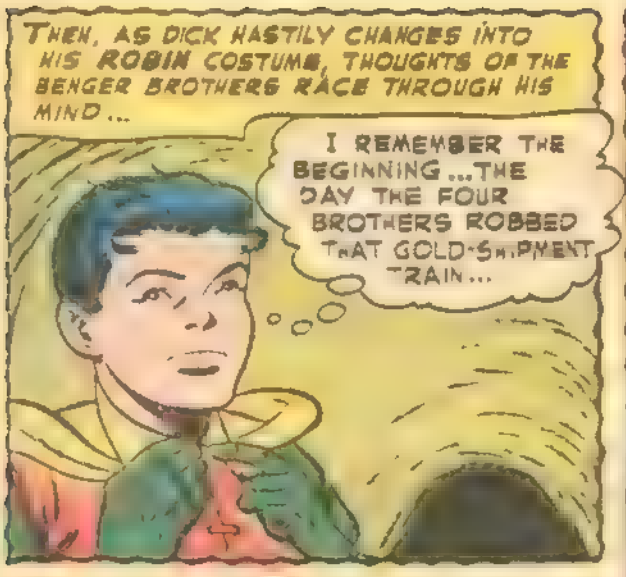
"The GAME of DEATH!"

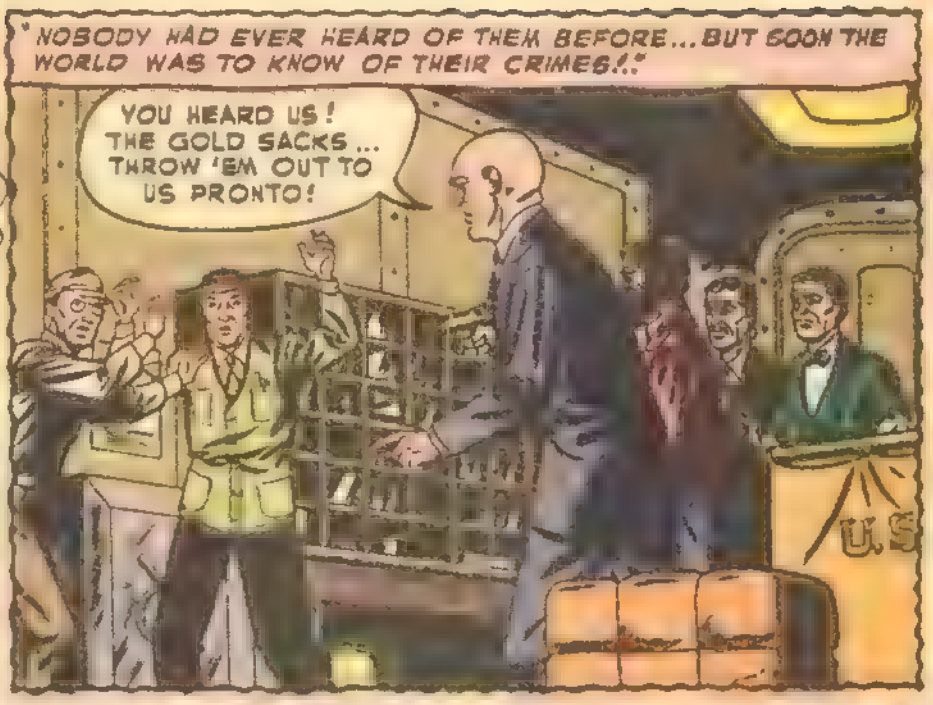
ONE AFTERNOON, AS DICK GRAYSON RETURNS FROM SCHOOL TO THE HOME OF HIS GUARDIAN, BRUCE WAYNE...

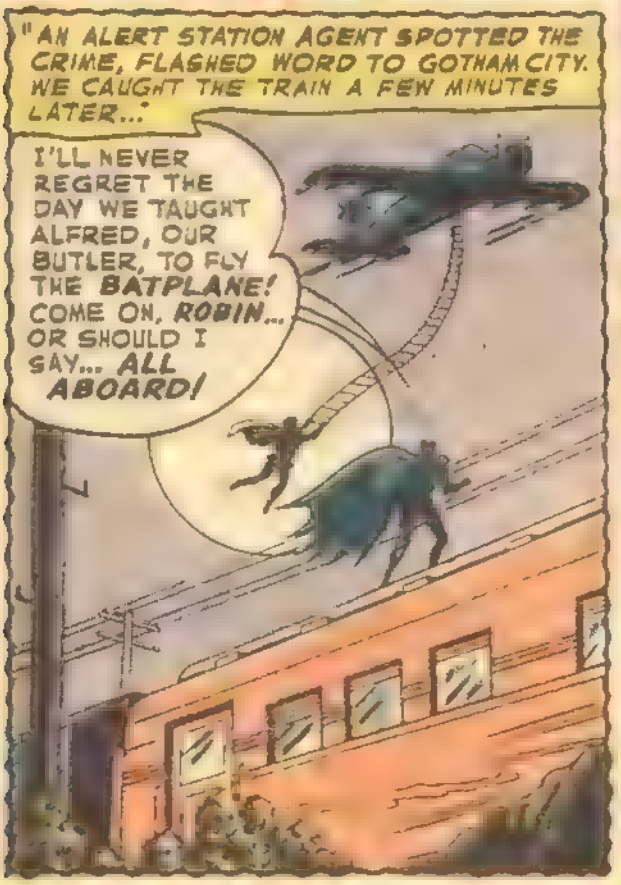


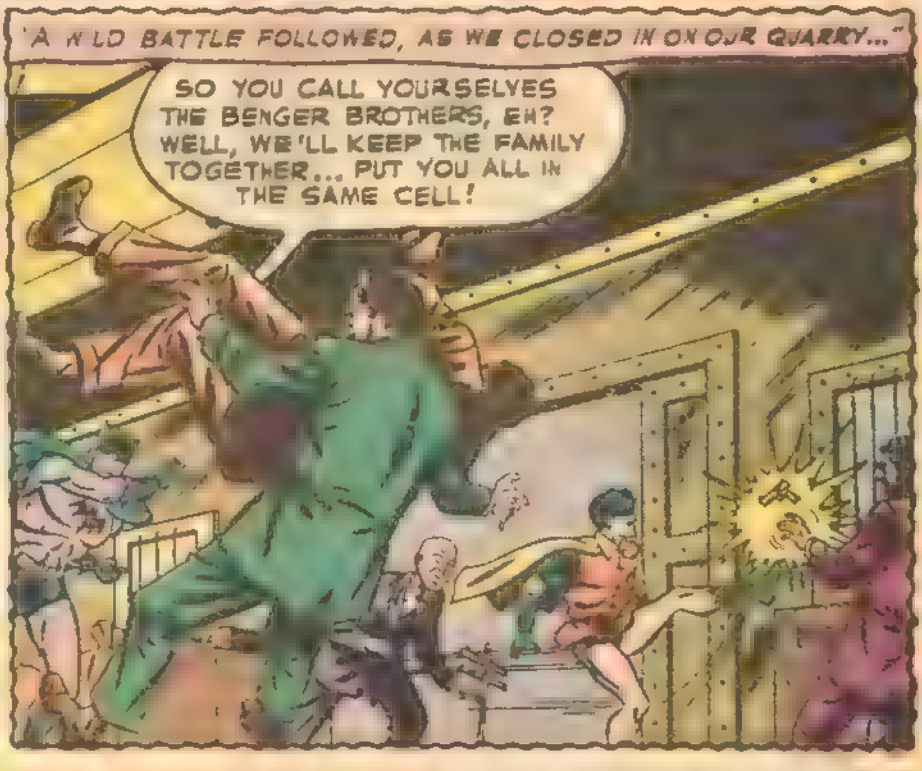
AND MOMENTS LATER THE YOUNG LAD HAS DESCENDED TO THAT AWESOME LAIR OF BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER... THE BAT-CAVE!


Robin: Have Tip. Gordy Benger is in town. Am tracing it down. Batman
GORDY BENGER... THE LAST OF THE FOUR BENGER BROTHERS... WHO SWORE REVENGE AGAINST BATMAN!


THEN, AS DICK HASTILY CHANGES INTO HIS ROBIN COSTUME, THOUGHTS OF THE BENGER BROTHERS RACE THROUGH HIS MIND...
I REMEMBER THE BEGINNING...THE DAY THE FOUR BROTHERS ROBBED THAT GOLD-SHIPMENT TRAIN...


"NOBODY HAD EVER HEARD OF THEM BEFORE...BUT SOON THE WORLD WAS TO KNOW OF THEIR CRIMES!"
YOU HEARD US! THE GOLD SACKS... THROW 'EM OUT TO US PRONTO!
U.S

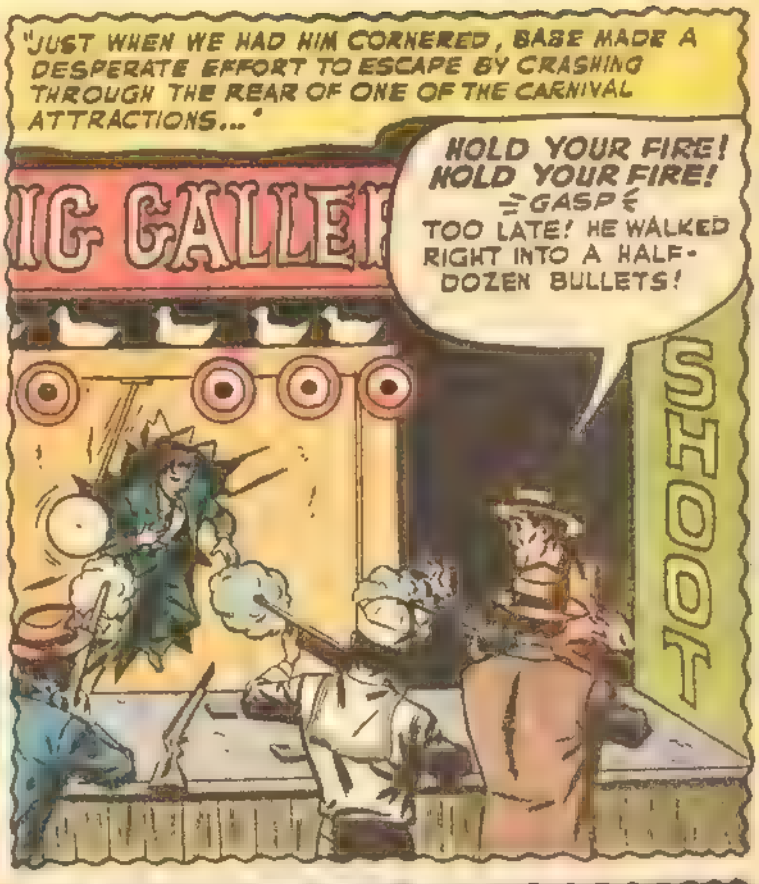

"AN ALERT STATION AGENT SPOTTED THE CRIME, FLASHED WORD TO GOTHAM CITY. WE CAUGHT THE TRAIN A FEW MINUTES LATER..."
I'LL NEVER REGRET THE DAY WE TAUGHT ALFRED, OUR BUTLER, TO FLY THE BATPLANE! COME ON, ROBIN... OR SHOULD I SAY... ALL ABOARD!

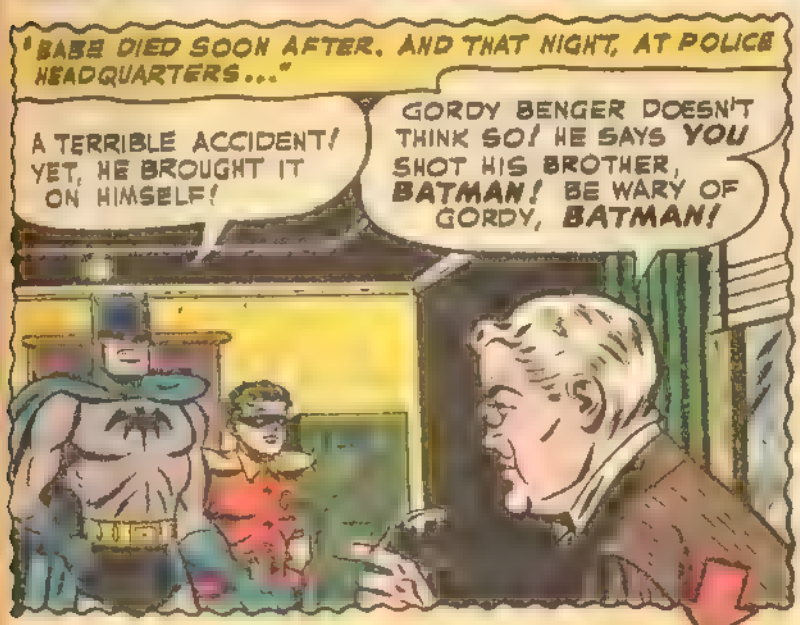

"A WILD BATTLE FOLLOWED, AS WE CLOSED IN ON OUR QUARRY..."
SO YOU CALL YOURSELVES THE BENGER BROTHERS, EH? WELL, WE'LL KEEP THE FAMILY TOGETHER... PUT YOU ALL IN THE SAME CELL!

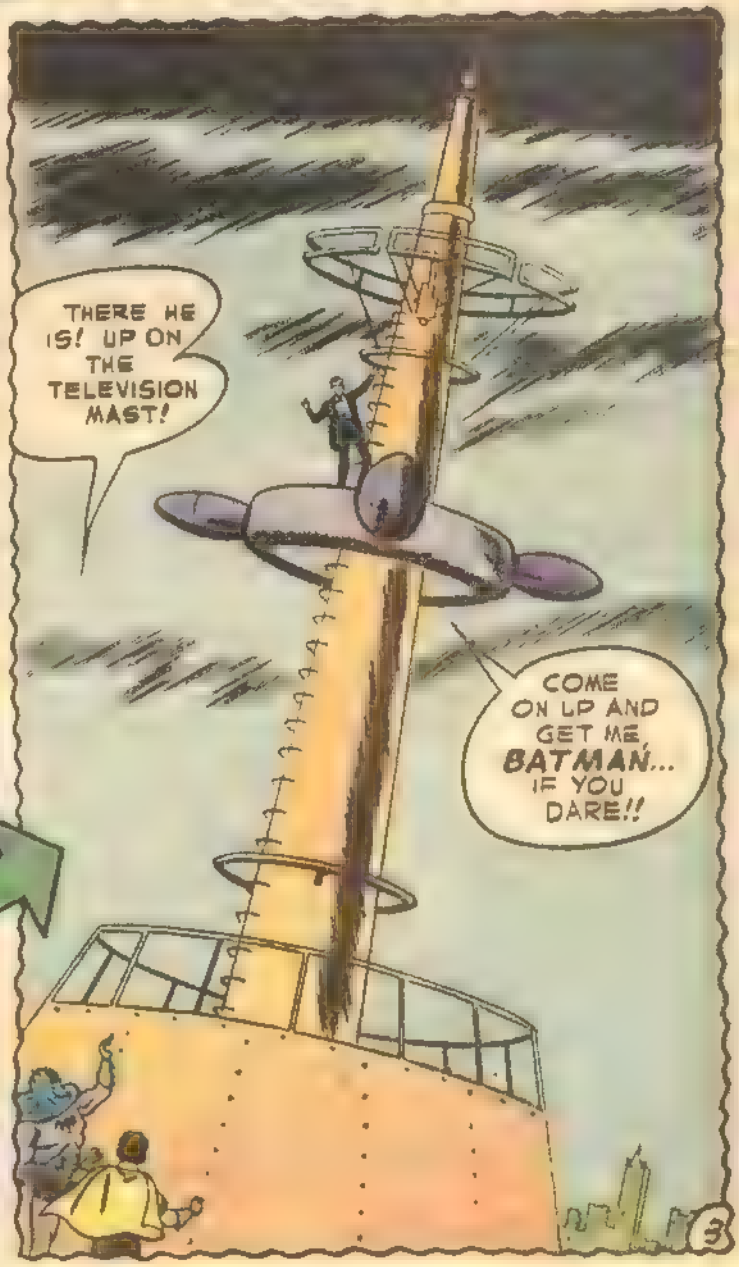
"THEN 'SKULL' BENGER, THE BALD ONE, PANICKED. SUDDENLY HE LEAPED FROM THE CAR!"
"SKULL", YOU FOOL! GOOD GRIEF! HE LEAPED RIGHT FOR A WIRE... IT CAUGHT HIM AROUND THE NECK... HE'S DEAD!

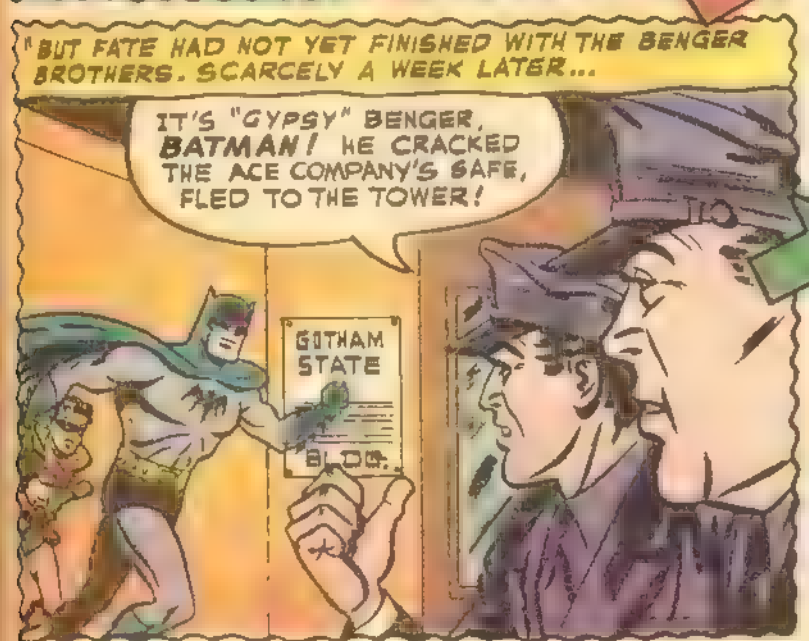
YOU DID THAT, BATMAN! YOU WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR MY BROTHER BEING HANGED! YOU HANGED HIM, BATMAN! AND I'LL NEVER FORGET IT!

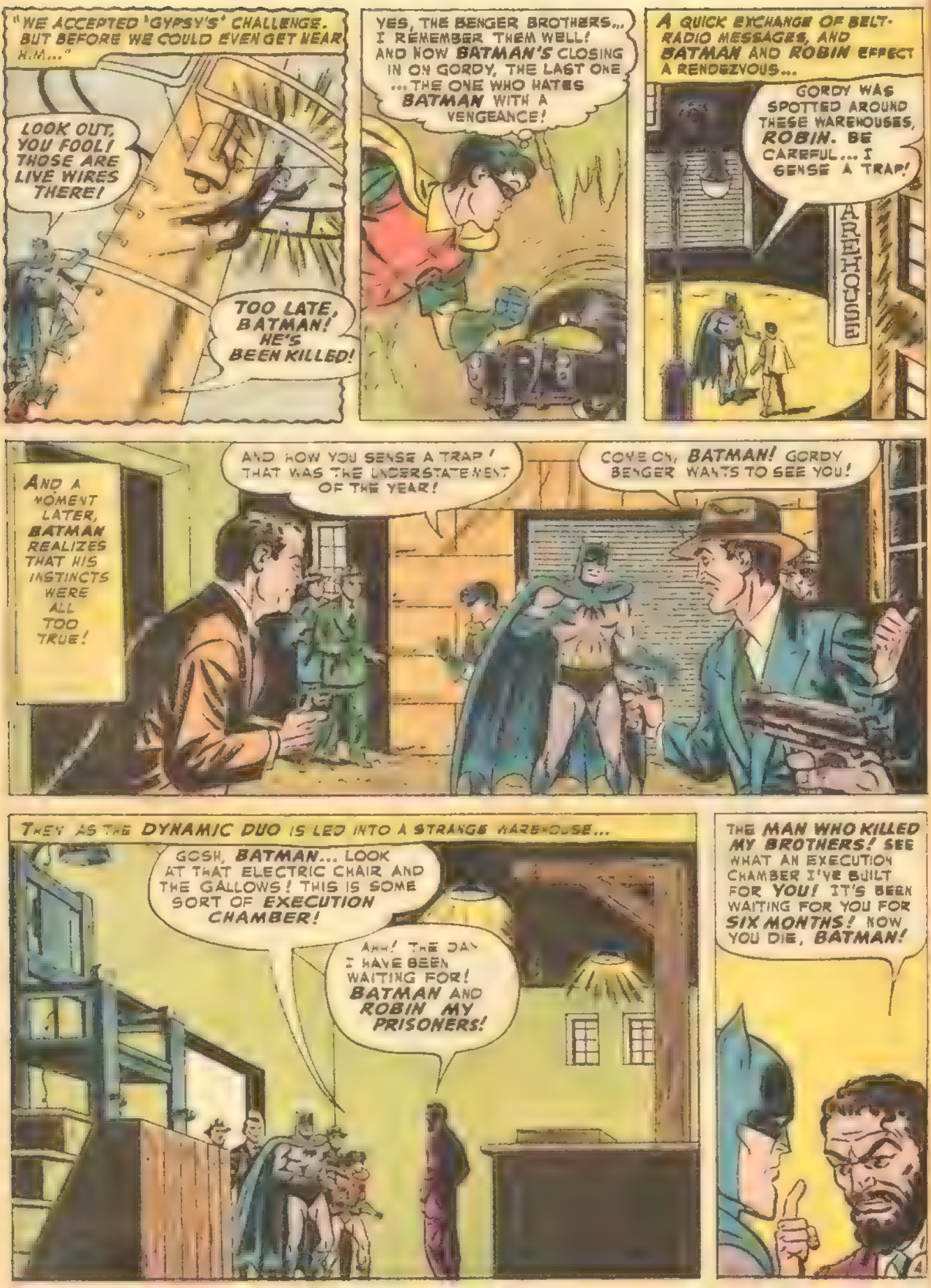
"THE TRAIN SWERVED SUDDENLY, UPSETTING BATMAN AND MYSELF, AND THE BENGERS ESCAPED. BUT A MONTH LATER..."
THERE'S THE THIEF WHO'S BEEN ROBBING THE PAYROLLS HERE AT THE FAIR!
BABE BENGER... YOUNGEST OF THE BENGER BROTHERS!
SHOW


"JUST WHEN WE HAD HIM CORNERED, BABE MADE A DESPERATE EFFORT TO ESCAPE BY CRASHING THROUGH THE REAR OF ONE OF THE CARNIVAL ATTRACTIONS..."
HOLD YOUR FIRE! HOLD YOUR FIRE!
⇒GASP⇐
TOO LATE! HE WALKED RIGHT INTO A HALF-DOZEN BULLETS!
SHOOT

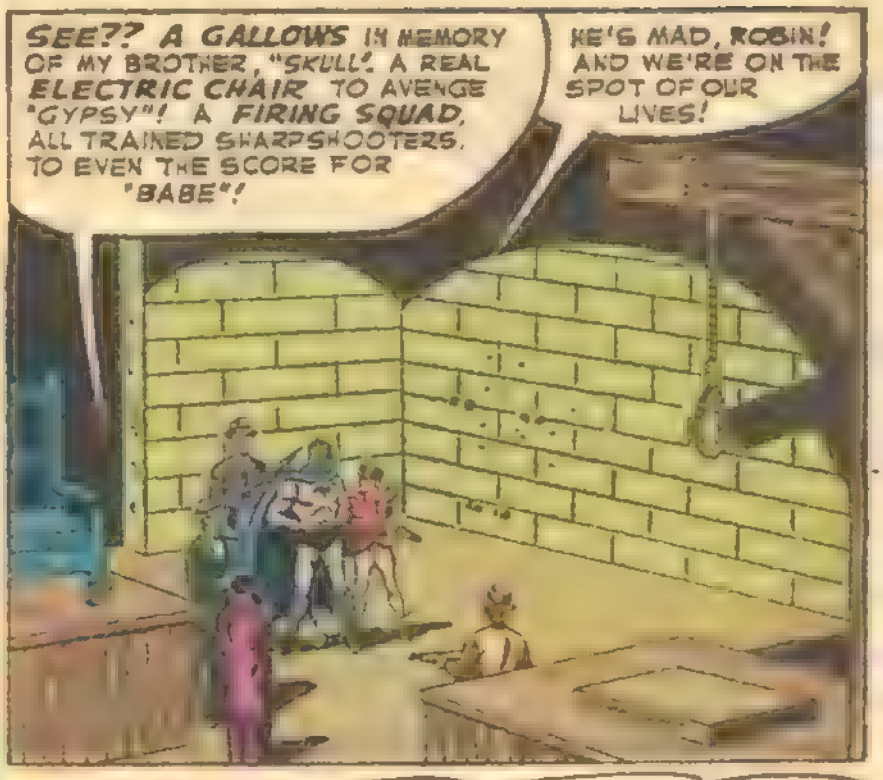

"BABE DIED SOON AFTER. AND THAT NIGHT, AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS..."
A TERRIBLE ACCIDENT! YET, HE BROUGHT IT ON HIMSELF!
GORDY BENGER DOESN'T THINK SO! HE SAYS YOU SHOT HIS BROTHER, BATMAN! BE WARY OF GORDY, BATMAN!


THERE HE IS! UP ON THE TELEVISION MAST!
COME ON UP AND GET ME, BATMAN... IF YOU DARE!!

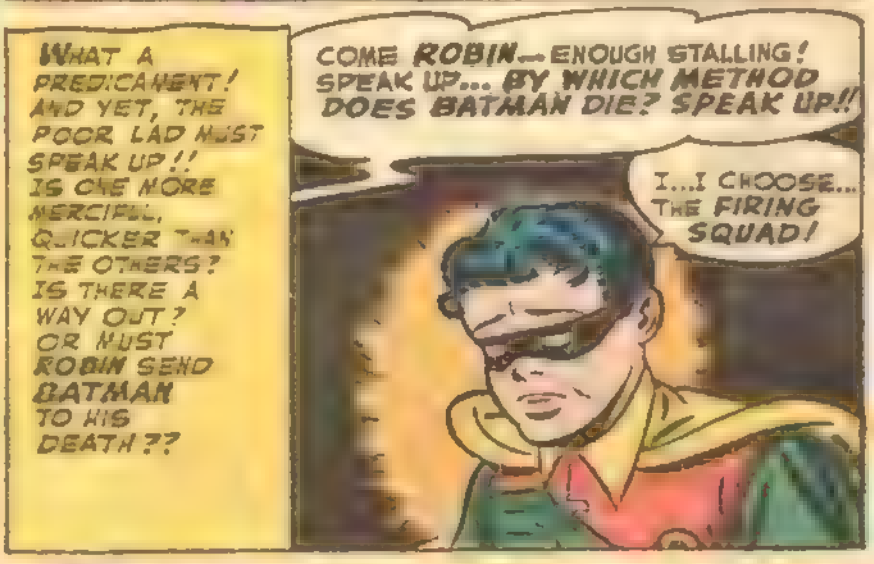

"BUT FATE HAD NOT YET FINISHED WITH THE BENGER BROTHERS. SCARCELY A WEEK LATER...
IT'S "GYPSY" BENGER, BATMAN! HE CRACKED THE ACE COMPANY'S SAFE, FLED TO THE TOWER!
GOTHAM STATE
BLDG.


"WE ACCEPTED 'GYPSY'S' CHALLENGE. BUT BEFORE WE COULD EVEN GET NEAR HIM..."
LOOK OUT, YOU FOOL! THOSE ARE LIVE WIRES THERE!
TOO LATE, BATMAN! HE'S BEEN KILLED!
YES, THE BENGER BROTHERS... I REMEMBER THEM WELL! AND NOW BATMAN'S CLOSING IN ON GORDY, THE LAST ONE ...THE ONE WHO HATES BATMAN WITH A VENGEANCE!
A QUICK EXCHANGE OF BELT-RADIO MESSAGES, AND BATMAN AND ROBIN EFFECT A RENDEZVOUS...
GORDY WAS SPOTTED AROUND THESE WAREHOUSES, ROBIN. BE CAREFUL... I SENSE A TRAP!
WAREHOUSE
AND A MOMENT LATER, BATMAN REALIZES THAT HIS INSTINCTS WERE ALL TOO TRUE!
AND NOW YOU SENSE A TRAP! THAT WAS THE UNDERSTATEMENT OF THE YEAR!
COME ON, BATMAN! GORDY BENGER WANTS TO SEE YOU!
THEY AS THE DYNAMIC DUO IS LED INTO A STRANGE WAREHOUSE...
GOSH, BATMAN... LOOK AT THAT ELECTRIC CHAIR AND THE GALLOWS! THIS IS SOME SORT OF EXECUTION CHAMBER!
AHH! THE DAY I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR! BATMAN AND ROBIN MY PRISONERS!
THE MAN WHO KILLED MY BROTHERS! SEE WHAT AN EXECUTION CHAMBER I'VE BUILT FOR YOU! IT'S BEEN WAITING FOR YOU FOR SIX MONTHS! NOW YOU DIE, BATMAN!

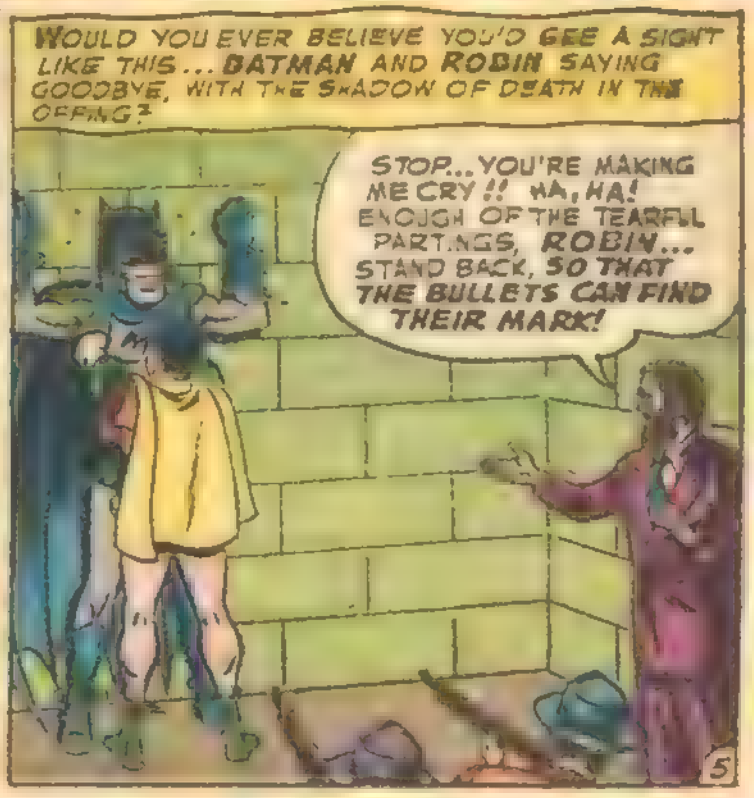
SEE HOW I'VE PLANNED EVERYTHING... HOW LONG THIS REVENGE HAS BEEN IN THE BACK OF MY MIND! READ MY DIARY! READ IT...IT WILL MAKE YOU SHIVER! IT SHOWS HOW MY HATE GREW, DAY BY DAY!


SEE?? A GALLOWS IN MEMORY OF MY BROTHER, "SKULL". A REAL ELECTRIC CHAIR TO AVENGE "GYPSY"! A FIRING SQUAD, ALL TRAINED SHARPSHOOTERS, TO EVEN THE SCORE FOR "BABE"!
HE'S MAD, ROBIN! AND WE'RE ON THE SPOT OF OUR LIVES!

OBVIOUSLY, I CAN USE ONLY ONE METHOD OF KILLING YOU, BATMAN... BUT WHICH ONE??? AHHH, I HAVE IT!! ROBIN SHALL SUPPLY THE ANSWER! COME, ROBIN... HOW DO WE KILL BATMAN???


WHAT A PREDICAMENT! AND YET, THE POOR LAD MUST SPEAK UP!! IS ONE MORE MERCIFUL, QUICKER THAN THE OTHERS? IS THERE A WAY OUT? OR MUST ROBIN SEND BATMAN TO HIS DEATH??
COME ROBIN—ENOUGH STALLING! SPEAK UP... BY WHICH METHOD DOES BATMAN DIE? SPEAK UP!!
I...I CHOOSE... THE FIRING SQUAD!

THE FIRING SQUAD! QUICKLY, BATMAN IS LED TO THE WALL, WHILE ROBIN ASKS A LAST FAVOR...
IF I MAY, I'D LIKE TO PUT THE BLINDFOLD ON BATMAN... AND SAY MY GOODBYES TO MY FRIEND...
ALL RIGHT... YOU HAVE THREE MINUTES! BUT, NO TRICKS, ROBIN! OR YOU'LL DIE BEFORE BATMAN!


WOULD YOU EVER BELIEVE YOU'D SEE A SIGHT LIKE THIS... BATMAN AND ROBIN SAYING GOODBYE, WITH THE SHADOW OF DEATH IN THE OFFING?
STOP... YOU'RE MAKING ME CRY!! HA, HA! ENOUGH OF THE TEARFUL PARTINGS, ROBIN... STAND BACK, SO THAT THE BULLETS CAN FIND THEIR MARK!

AN ORDER IS BARKED... RIFLES CRACK... AND BULLETS RUN! A MOMENT LATER...

BEAUTIFUL! BEAUTIFUL! NOW CUT HIM DOWN FROM THAT WALL!

HENCHMEN REMOVE THE STRAPS FROM BATMAN'S LIMP BODY! BUT, ALL AT ONCE, THE LIMP BODY COMES ALIVE WITH A ROUSING LEAP!!

NOW, ROBIN... WE'VE CAUGHT THEM OFF-GUARD! TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE CONFUSION!

WHA... WHAT HAPPENED! HE'S... ALIVE!!

DON'T WORRY... I AM!

SWIFT, SURE HANDS REACH INTO UTILITY BELT POCKETS. IN A MOMENT, PARALYZING GAS BILLOWS ABOUT!

A SLIGHT OVERSIGHT ON THEIR PART... LEAVING US OUR UTILITY BELTS, WITH THE GAS PELLETS AND MASKS WITHIN!

RIGHT! AND THEIR OTHER OVERSIGHT WAS UNDERESTIMATING YOU, ROBIN! YOUR QUICK THINKING SAVED THE DAY!

AND LATER...

IT WAS THE ONLY CHANCE WE HAD. I KNEW BENGER'S FIRING SQUAD WAS COMPOSED OF CRACK SHARPSHOOTERS... WHO BY TRADITION WOULD AIM AT YOUR HEART, AND WOULDN'T MISS!

SO YOU SLIPPED ME THAT DIARY BENGER GAVE YOU, WHILE YOU WERE ADJUSTING MY BLINDFOLD! AND THEY NEVER SAW ME SLIDE IT UNDER MY UNIFORM, OVER MY HEART! THE BULLETS HIT THAT... AND I FEIGNED DEATH! AND THEN THE REST WAS EASY!

END.

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Sweeps the country with
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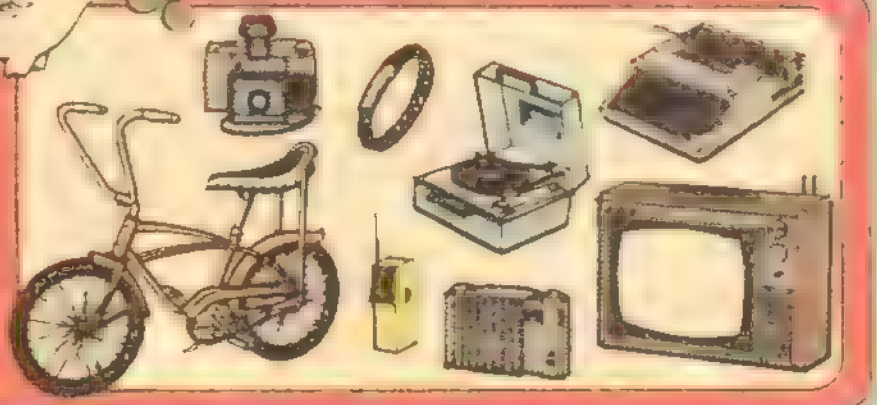
Win your own piggy bank stuffed with 100,000 pennies plus...your own PERSONAL color TV set, a bicycle with your MONOGRAM on it, your own PERSONAL radio, a Speidel IDENTIFICATION bracelet, your own "Swinger" camera, your own PERSONAL phonograph, Walkie-Talkie, and PERSONAL portable typewriter



[illegible]

Roadmaster Renegade Monogrammed Bicycles—Ride the roads in style—the perfect travelling companion for boys and girls.

150 THIRD PRIZES

RCA PERSONAL Portable Phonograph. Plays all records—any size—any speed. Comes in its own plastic carrying case

[illegible]

RCA PERSONAL Portable Radio. Designed for fun. Equipped with its own "PERSONAL sound" earphone for private listening.

Complete the entry form, including your name, address and zip code, and send along with the header or end tab from a FOOTSEE package; or the word FOOTSEE hand printed on a plain 3"x 5" piece of paper. Additional entry blanks available wherever FOOTSEE is sold.

Send in as many separately mailed entries as you wish. Entries must be postmarked by July 31, 1969 and received by August 5, 1969 to be eligible. Winners will be selected by random drawing conducted by Marden-Kane, Inc., an independent judging organization, whose decisions are final. All prize winners will be notified by mail approximately 30 days following the drawing.

Sweepstakes open to residents of the United States under 18 years of age. Employees of Market Promotions, Marden-Kane, Inc. or their families are not eligible. Sweepstakes void outside U.S., in Wisconsin and wherever prohibited by law.

NO PURCHASE REQUIRED

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[illegible]

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

GIANT BATMAIL N-104

Dear Sirs:

Owing to the August invasion of uninvited, so-called "friends," I do not know if these lines will ever reach you. Nevertheless, I am trying to send them. Why? Because this year, for the first time, I have been lucky enough to gain one issue of BATMAN magazine, No. 198, and so I could get acquainted myself with a favorite comics hero about whose existence I did not know before. And not only I, an adult person (38 years of age) have become a Batman and Robin enthusiast, but many times I had to read all those thrilling adventures to two of my three children. I wish you could see the eagerness in the eyes of my son Vasik (11 years old) and daughter Lidunka (5) when listening to "The Origin of the Batman," "The Jungle Cat-Queen," "The Web of the Spinner," etc. On February 23rd, our third child was born. She is a girl called Evicka, and I can assure you in advance that in time she will become a Batman fan like her brother and sister. Since 1948, when this little country fell under the cruel rule of the recent invaders, among the many things they prohibited had been comics. Therefore, you can hardly imagine the feelings of young people when they meet for the first time the interesting illustrated stories of Batman and Robin. To convince you how deep in the hearts of my children Batman is, I can give you one example from the August days of destiny. When we first saw the tanks of the enemy, Vasik, with a mixture of hatred and fear in his eyes, told me, "Oh, father, if only Batman and Robin could be here with us, they would certainly punish all those enemy troops and force them to leave!" Well, a Latin proverb says "Spero dum spiro" ("I believe while I breathe"). I believe in the Good Lord above and am convinced that such treachery must be punished, because each stick has two ends. One of them hit us in August and the second one must hit our enemy. Dearest Friends, excuse please my boring you with these lines, but I simply had to tell you about our family of devoted Batman fans and thank you for the stories, which we appreciate very much. I wish you all good health, happiness and success.

—(Name withheld), Prague, Czechoslovakia

(Boring us? This was the finest fan letter we have ever received. We hope it will not be long before more of our magazines can go on sale in your country—and that you will be able to see your letter in print. —Ed.)

• • • • • •

Dear Editor:

As soon as I was through reading GIANT BATMAN No. 208, I had to write and tell you how good it was. The ending really got me; yet it was the beginning that surprised me the most and urged me to read on. But when you got to the end of "The Secret Life of the Catwoman," just as you showed the cat silhouette in the sky, you broke off and switched to another story. What gives?

—John Cowie, North Hollywood, Calif.

(There was a goof at the printing plant, and two new captions were accidentally dropped. "Secret Life" ended two pages earlier; we then followed with two pages from "The Crimes of the Catwoman," telling how the Feline Felon returned to crime. The missing captions would have explained this.—Ed.)

• • • • • •

Dear Editor:

In my opinion, Gil Kane and Jack Abel, who did the new art in issue 208, are just not compatible. Kane and Abel—maybe *that's* why they're not good together. The format of the GIANT was a nice change of pace, but seemed random and, at times, pointless. Another point—there were no references to the original issues from which the exerpts were reprinted.

—Constructive Criticism

(Just another case of an unfortunate omission. We had a contents page all ready, with the original publications spelled out—but somehow it was squeezed out at the last minute. So here's the rundown: "The Secret Life of the Catwoman"—BATMAN No. 62 (Dec., 1960-Jan., 1961); "The Crimes of the Catwoman"—DETECTIVE No. 203 (Jan., 1954); "Vicki Vale's Secret"—BATMAN No. 73 (Oct.-Nov., 1952); "The Batwoman"—DETECTIVE No. 233 (July, 1956); "The Menace of the Firefly"—BATMAN No. 126 (Sept., 1959); "The Problem of the Proxy Paintings"—BATMAN No. 194 (August, 1967); "Gotham Gang Line-Up"—DETECTIVE No. 328 (June, 1964); "The Dilemma of the Detective's Daughter"—BATMAN No. 165 (August, 1964); "Batman Vs. Eclipso"—BRAVE & BOLD No. 64 (Feb.-Mar., 1966); "Beware of Poison Ivy"—BATMAN No. 181 (June, 1966); "A Touch of Poison Ivy"—BATMAN No. 183 (August, 1966); "The Million-Dollar Debut of Batgirl"—DETECTIVE No. 359 (Jan., 1967). Since most of these are brief excerpts in the GIANT, with no titles given, we've arranged them in the proper order so you can match them up.—Ed.)

• • • • • •

Dear Editor:

In No. 208, at the end, one of the clippings said, "Joe Chill Shot By Own Henchmen! Claim they killed him because he was responsible for Batman's career. Chill dies without revealing crime-fighter's identity." How could Chill be sure who Batman was? And the gang must have known Batman's identity, or they wouldn't have killed Chill. Did Batman get rid of them to protect his secret? Another clipping said, "Max Chill Killed In Accident While Fighting Batman!" Was this the same Max Chill we saw in BRAVE & BOLD No. 79, starring Batman and Deadman?

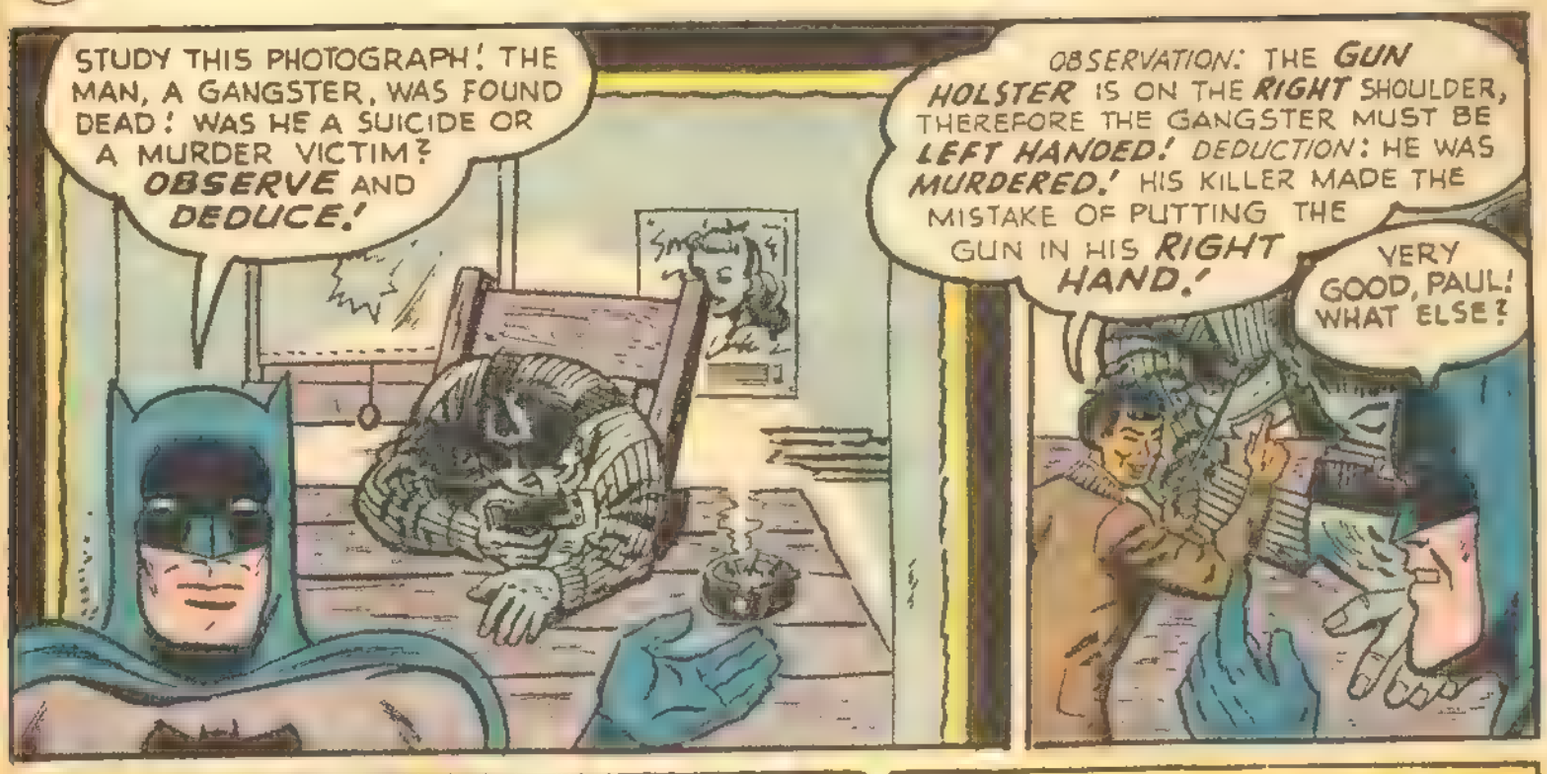
Mike K. Muth, Buffalo Grove, Ill.

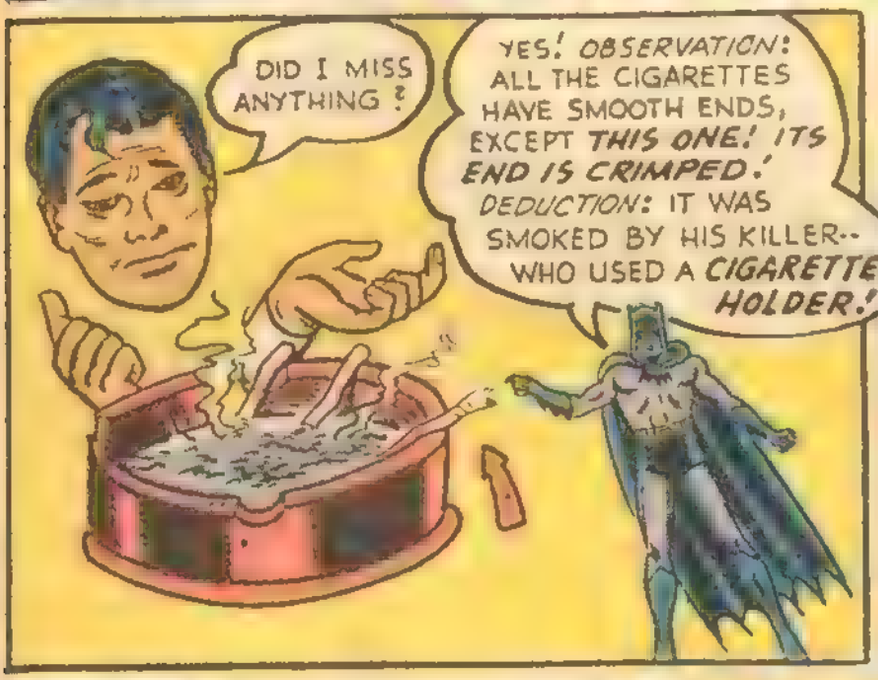
(It sure was! As for Joe, you obviously missed GIANT BATMAN No. 198. In one of the stories, Batman finally tracked down Joe Chill and revealed his identity to his parents' killer, telling him how he'd become Batman because of Chill's crime. Chill told his men that Batman was after him for killing his father—that was why he turned crime-fighter. In blind rage against the man who "made Batman," the hoods gunned him down—and realized too late that he could have told them who Batman was.—Ed.)

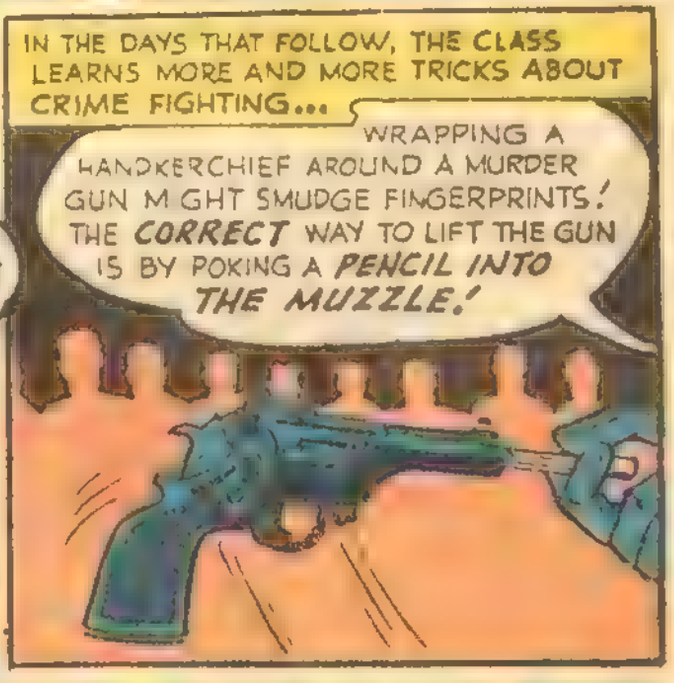
Now, a reminder that our address is GIANT BATMAIL, National Periodical Publications, 909 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022. Send your comments on this issue to us—we'll be waiting to hear from you.

WE DARE YOU TO ACCEPT THIS CHALLENGE!
CAN YOU GUESS THE SECRET IDENTITY OF THE CRIMINAL WHO BAFFLED GOTHAM CITY FOR ONE DECADE? BATMAN AND ROBIN WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH ALL THE CLUES. SEE IF YOU CAN INTERPRET THEM SKILLFULLY ENOUGH TO IDENTIFY...
"THE MAN BEHIND THE RED HOOD!"
BATMAN
ROBIN

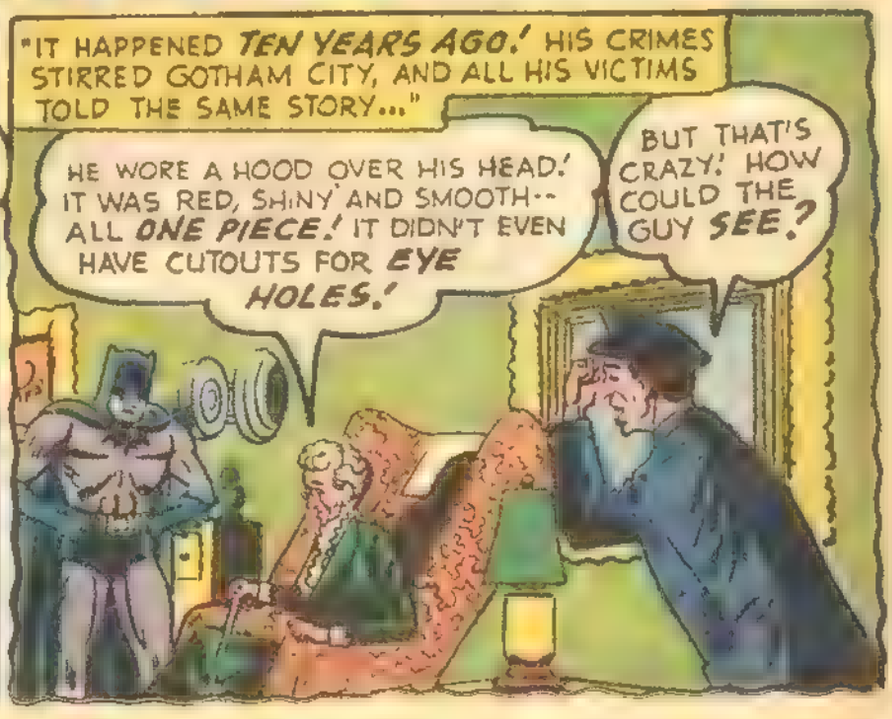
NIGHTTIME IN GOTHAM CITY--AND TWO MANTLED FIGURES PLUMMET TOWARD THE ROOF OF POLICE HEADQUARTERS IN ANSWER TO THE BAT-SIGNAL!
BATMAN AND ROBIN, I WANT YOU TO MEET DEAN CHALMERS OF STATE UNIVERSITY! HE HAS A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU!
YES, GENTLEMEN... THIS TERM, THE UNIVERSITY IS STARTING A COURSE IN CRIMINOLOGY, AND WE'D BE HONORED TO HAVE YOU, BATMAN AS GUEST INSTRUCTOR!
NEXT MORNING, AS BATMAN'S TALL FIGURE STRIDES ACROSS THE COLLEGE CAMPUS...
BOY, LOOK AT THOSE SHOULDERS ON BATMAN! WHAT A FULLBACK HE'D MAKE!
(SIGH) GOLLY, I'M SORRY I DIDN'T SIGN UP FOR THAT COURSE! (SIGH) ISN'T HE DIVINE?
TO UNDERSTAND HIS CLASS BETTER, BATMAN STARTS BY INTERVIEWING EACH STUDENT PRIVATELY!...
MY FAMILY LIVES IN HAWAII! SOMEDAY I HOPE TO BE A MEDICAL EXAMINER ON THE HAWAII POLICE DEPARTMENT!
PAUL WONG, WHY DID YOU PICK THIS COURSE?
YES, EACH STUDENT HAS HIS REASON, LIKE JIMMY KALE, FOR EXAMPLE...
MY FATHER WAS CHIPS KALE, THE GANGSTER! I SWORE I'D MAKE IT UP TO SOCIETY BY TAKING THE PLACE OF THE F.B.I. MAN HE ONCE KILLED! IT'S A DEBT I MUST PAY OFF!
THAT AFTERNOON, PROFESSOR BATMAN BEGINS ACTUAL INSTRUCTION...
THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECT OF CRIME-FIGHTING, CLASS, IS OBSERVATION AND DEDUCTION! NOW, IF THIS FOOTPRINT WERE FOUND AT THE SCENE OF A CRIME, WHAT WOULD YOU OBSERVE AND DEDUCE?
OBSERVATION: THE HEEL PRINT IS UNCOMMONLY DEEP WHEREAS THE SOLE PRINT IS VERY LIGHT! DEDUCTION: THE CRIMINAL TRIED TO FOOL THE POLICE BY WALKING AWAY BACKWARD!
RIGHT, JIMMY!


STUDY THIS PHOTOGRAPH! THE MAN, A GANGSTER, WAS FOUND DEAD! WAS HE A SUICIDE OR A MURDER VICTIM? OBSERVE AND DEDUCE!
OBSERVATION: THE GUN HOLSTER IS ON THE RIGHT SHOULDER, THEREFORE THE GANGSTER MUST BE LEFT HANDED! DEDUCTION: HE WAS MURDERED! HIS KILLER MADE THE MISTAKE OF PUTTING THE GUN IN HIS RIGHT HAND!
VERY GOOD, PAUL! WHAT ELSE?


DID I MISS ANYTHING?
YES! OBSERVATION: ALL THE CIGARETTES HAVE SMOOTH ENDS, EXCEPT THIS ONE! ITS END IS CRIMPED! DEDUCTION: IT WAS SMOKED BY HIS KILLER-- WHO USED A CIGARETTE HOLDER!


IN THE DAYS THAT FOLLOW, THE CLASS LEARNS MORE AND MORE TRICKS ABOUT CRIME FIGHTING...
WRAPPING A HANDKERCHIEF AROUND A MURDER GUN MIGHT SMUDGE FINGERPRINTS! THE CORRECT WAY TO LIFT THE GUN IS BY POKING A PENCIL INTO THE MUZZLE!

AND ONE MONTH LATER...
NOW, CLASS, YOU'RE READY FOR A TEST CASE--AN ACTUAL CRIME THAT EVEN I NEVER SOLVED! IN FACT, THE CRIMINAL WAS NEVER CAUGHT! HE CALLED HIMSELF-- THE RED HOOD!


"IT HAPPENED TEN YEARS AGO! HIS CRIMES STIRRED GOTHAM CITY, AND ALL HIS VICTIMS TOLD THE SAME STORY..."
HE WORE A HOOD OVER HIS HEAD! IT WAS RED, SHINY AND SMOOTH-- ALL ONE PIECE! IT DIDN'T EVEN HAVE CUTOUTS FOR EYE HOLES!
BUT THAT'S CRAZY! HOW COULD THE GUY SEE?

"AT FIRST, I DOUBTED THE STORIES! THAT IS, UNTIL ONE NIGHT WHEN I SPOTTED A FIGURE SNEAKING INTO AN ICE PLANT..."
THE RED HOOD! THEN THE STORIES ARE TRUE--YOUR HOOD IS BLANK FACED!
YES, BATMAN, BUT I CAN SEE JUST THE SAME! WHO KNOWS? PERHAPS I CAN SEE THROUGH METAL BECAUSE I HAVE X-RAY EYES!
YOU SEE, CRIMINALS CAN BE IDENTIFIED BY THEIR EARS, THE COLOR OF THEIR EYES, THE SHAPE OF A CHIN! BUT NO ONE WILL EVER IDENTIFY ME--BECAUSE MY HOOD COVERS MY FEATURES COMPLETELY!
SO THAT'S THE REASON FOR IT!
"SUDDENLY, I LEAPED AT HIM--HIS GUN FLAMED--BUT NOT AT ME! INSTEAD, STEEL-JACKETED SLUGS RIPPED INTO THE PIPES OF CHOKING AMMONIA GAS!
BLAM BLAM BLAM
:COUGH: ... CAN'T... BREATHE... :COUGH:
"I SWERVED TO THE OPEN WINDOW, SUCKING FRESH AIR INTO MY STRAINING LUNGS--AND WHEN I TURNED BACK..."
THE RED HOOD... HE'S GONE--ESCAPED! BUT HOW COULD HE, SO QUICKLY? HE SHOULD HAVE BEEN WEAKENED BY THE GAS, AS I WAS!
"FOR ONE MONTH MORE, THE RED HOOD ROBBED AND ESCAPED --UNTIL ONE NIGHT, WE CORNERED HIM FLEEING FROM ANOTHER CRIME..."
GREAT SCOTT! HE'S DIVING INTO THE CATCH BASIN FOR ALL THE WASTE CHEMICALS FROM YOUR PLANT!
MONARCH PLAYING CARD CO.
THE LIQUID EMPTIES OUT INTO THE RIVER, BUT HE'LL NEVER MAKE IT! THAT DEADLY CHEMICAL MIXTURE WILL FINISH HIM FIRST!
WELL, WE NEVER RECOVERED HIS BODY... AND TO THIS DAY, WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER THE RED HOOD DIED, OR SUDDENLY DECIDED TO RETIRE! PERHAPS YOU HAVE THE ANSWERS, CLASS!
AND PERHAPS YOU, TOO, HAVE THE ANSWERS, READER! FOLLOW THE REST OF THE STORY CLOSELY, AND SEE WHAT YOU CAN MAKE OF THE CLUES WHICH TURN UP!

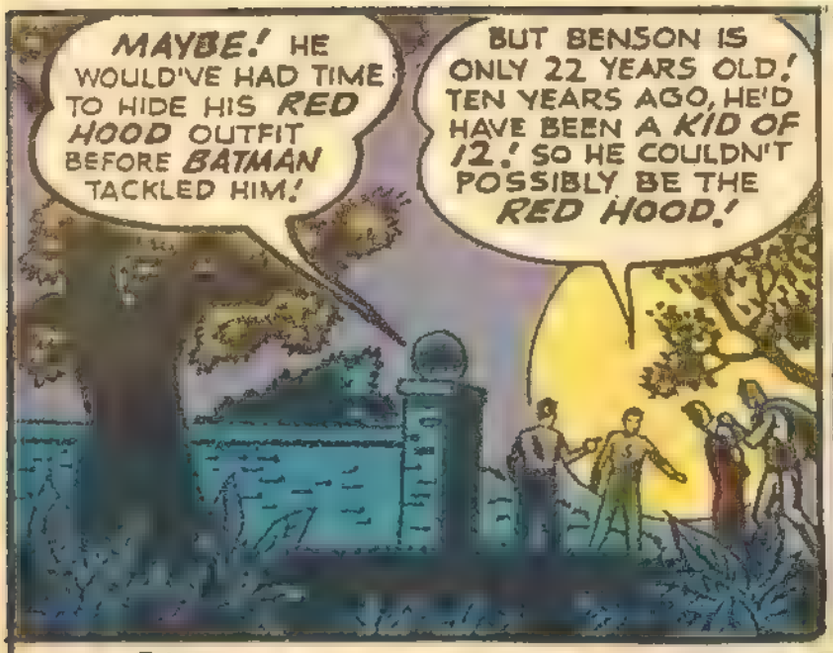
NEXT DAY, BATMAN'S STUDENTS MAKE FRONT PAGE NEWS...
SAY, LISTEN TO THIS--"BATMAN CRIME CLASS REOPENS RED HOOD CASE"!
"STUDENTS PROBE TEN-YEAR MYSTERY"! GEE, WE CERTAINLY HIT THE HEADLINES!
AND THAT NIGHT, TWO BRILLIANT STUDENT SLEUTHS ANALYZE CRIME CLUES...
I MAY HAVE THE ANSWER TO HOW HE COULD SEE THROUGH HIS METAL HOOD!
I'VE ADDED THE AMOUNT OF MONEY HE STOLE, AND IT TOTALS #1,000,000!
PAUL, I'VE A HUNCH THE RED HOOD IS STILL ALIVE!
AT THAT MOMENT, NEAR THE COLLEGE CASHIER'S OFFICE, A FANTASTIC FIGURE APPEARS... A FIGURE NOT SEEN IN A DECADE!
TH-THAT MASK--THE ONE BATMAN TALKED ABOUT! Y-YOU'RE THE RED HOOD!
SMART FELLOW... NOW, IF YOU WANT TO LIVE, LET ME AT THE SAFE HOLDING THE COLLEGE PAYROLL!
I ADMIRE YOUR COURAGE, WATCHMAN, BUT NOT YOUR STUPIDITY!
NO, I WON'T... OH-H-H...
CLANG
LANG
CLANG
CLANG
AS THE ALARM BELL RESOUNDS THROUGH THE CAMPUS, BATMAN AND ROBIN RESPOND SWIFTLY...
THERE GOES SOMEBODY, BATMAN! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!
BUT WHEN ROBIN SWINGS AT THE SHADOWY FIGURE...
MY SUNDAY PUNCH, STRANGER! OWW! MY FIST!
CLANG
5

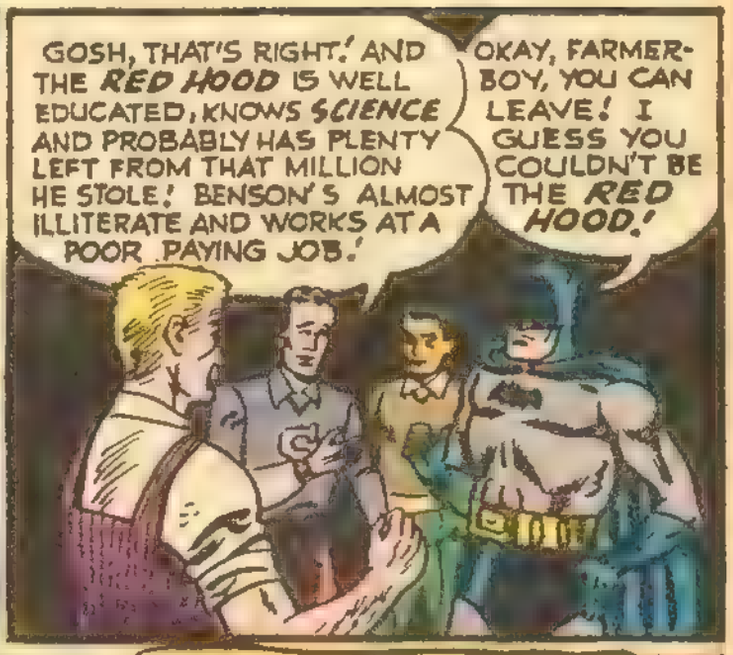
THE RED HOOD! AFTER TEN YEARS, HE'S COME BACK! ROBIN, HOW'S YOUR HAND?
I BROKE A FINGER! FORGET ABOUT ME, BATMAN... GO GET THAT CROOK!
SECONDS LATER, AMONG THE PHYSICS HALL'S HUGE SCALE MODELS OF MOLECULAR STRUCTURES...
THIS IS HOW YOU'LL SPLIT IF MY FIST CATCHES UP WITH YOU!
BUT WHEN IT SEEMS BATMAN HAS TRAPPED THE RED HOOD IN THE BASEMENT...
WHERE'D HE GO? NOT IN THE SCHOOL GAS MAIN! HE COULDN'T LIVE IN THERE TWO MINUTES! HE MUST'VE GOTTEN OUT ANOTHER WAY-- BUT HOW?
TUT-TUT, BATMAN-- YOU'RE NO ATOM-SMASHER! HA, HA!
DANGER POISON GAS DO NOT OPEN DOOR
LATER, IN THEIR EVERY-DAY IDENTITIES AS SOCIALITE BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, THE DYNAMIC DUO RETURNS TO THE BATCAVE, WHERE...
HERE'S A PIECE OF HAIR FROM THAT HAT... MOVE THE LAMP OVER, DICK-- I NEED MORE LIGHT! CAN'T SEE THE HAIR'S COLOR!
SURE, BRUCE... OOPS! FORGOT-- SHOULDN'T HAVE USED MY BAD HAND! CATCH IT! IT'S TIPPING OVER!
AND BACK IN THE MOLECULE EXHIBIT ROOM...
WELL, ANYHOW, HE ACCIDENTALLY LEFT THIS CLUE BEHIND... A ROLL-UP HAT OF SOFT FELT! OBVIOUSLY HE CAN'T WALK AROUND WEARING A RED HOOD AFTER A ROBBERY--SO HE CARRIES THE HOOD IN A PAPER BAG AND WEARS A HAT!
TO LATE! THE HOT LIGHT BULB TOUCHES THE HAIR, AND...
MY FAULT! GEE, I'M SORRY, BRUCE... THAT WAS THE ONLY CLUE WE HAD!
THE HAIR IS BURNED... CHARRED BLACK!
6

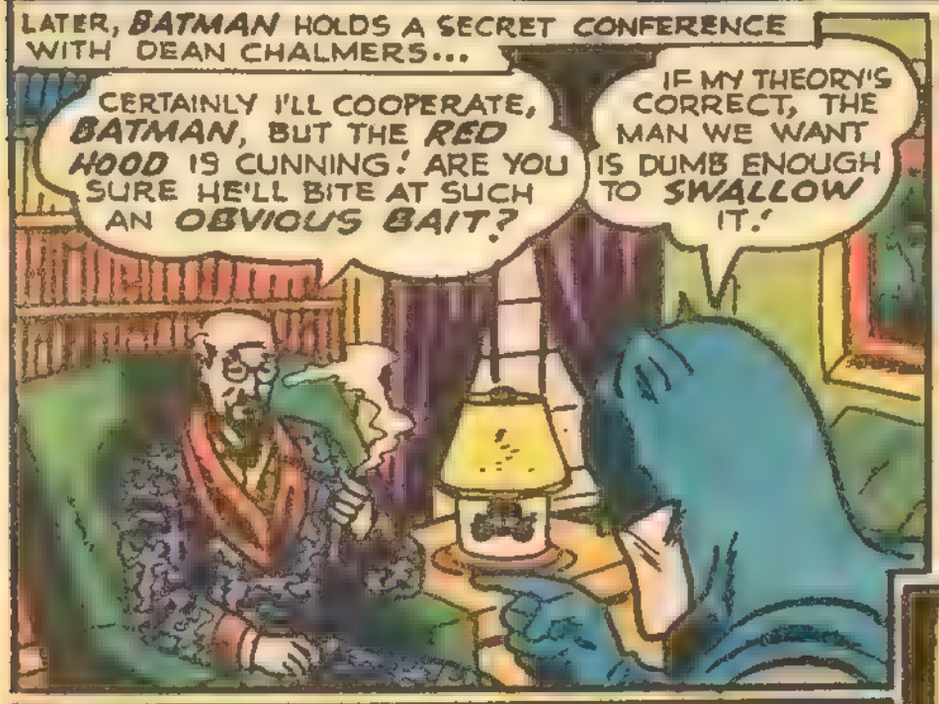
WAIT, DICK! HOW ABOUT TRYING OUT THAT NEW CHEMICAL FORMULA YOU'VE BEEN DEVELOPING? EXPERIMENTING WITH?
YOU MEAN THE FORMULA THAT RESTORES THE ORIGINAL COLOR TO BURNED FIBRES? SURE--THAT SHOULD DO IT!
BUT AFTER THE CHEMICAL IS APPLIED...
HUH? THE HAIR TURNED GREEN! GOSH, I MUST'VE MADE A MISTAKE IN THE FORMULA! AND NOW I'VE RUINED EVERYTHING!
WELL, DON'T FEEL TOO BADLY, DICK... WE MAY GET ANOTHER BREAK SOON!
LATER, WHEN BRUCE RETURNS TO THE CAMPUS--AS BATMAN...
TOO BAD ABOUT ROBIN'S HAND, BATMAN!
IT'LL BE AS GOOD AS NEW IN A MONTH! I--HOLD IT, JIMMY! THERE--IN YOUR ROOM--THE RED HOOD!
BUT AS HE LUNGES AT THE FIGURE...
WHY, IT'S PAUL WONG!
SURE... HA, HA! HE'S NOT THE RED HOOD! HE WAS ONLY WEARING A REPLICA! WE FINISHED IT TODAY!
WE'VE JUST FIGURED OUT HOW THE RED HOOD IS ABLE TO SEE THROUGH HIS HEADPIECE!
THE ANSWER IS A TWO-WAY MIRROR! THE TYPE OF MIRROR THAT REFLECTS ON ONE SIDE BUT IS TRANSPARENT ON THE REVERSE SIDE!
GET IT? HE OBVIOUSLY SET A PAIR OF RED TWO-WAY MIRRORS IN THE HOOD, WHERE HIS EYES COULD SEE THROUGH THEM! NATURALLY, THE SHINY MIRRORS BLENDED WITH THE SHINY METAL SO THAT HIS HOOD SEEMED TO BE ONE BLANK PIECE OF METAL!
7

BUT THE HEAD-PIECE ALSO HAS ANOTHER USE! THE REASON HE BURST THOSE AMMONIA PIPES, AND SURVIVED THAT CHEMICAL BATH IS BECAUSE IT'S ALSO A GAS MASK AND DIVING HELMET!
SO HE DID ESCAPE BEFORE THROUGH THE SCHOOL GAS MAIN!
RIGHT--AND I'LL BET THE RED HOOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN WAS TO STEAL EXACTLY $1,000,000, THEN RETIRE--WHICH HE DID!
BUT, JIMMY... WHY, THEN, DID DID HE COME OUT OF RETIREMENT AFTER TEN YEARS?
PROBABLY TO DEFY US... TO MAKE US A LAUGHING STOCK BECAUSE WE REOPENED THE CASE! AND SINCE HE WAS STOPPED THIS TIME, HE'LL RETURN... AND WHEN HE DOES, WE'LL GET HIM AND UNMASK HIM!
HOURS LATER, AS SPOTTERS -- EQUIPPED WITH WALKIE-TALKIES-- NOTICE A FIGURE STEALING THROUGH THE CAMPUS...
CALLING BATMAN! RED HOOD MOVING TOWARD UNIVERSITY MUSEUM!
CALLING BATMAN! RED HOOD HAS JUST PASSED ALPHA BETA FRATERNITY HOUSE!
INSTANTLY, THE FAMED BATMOBILE THUNDERS IN PURSUIT...
I'LL TAKE A SHORT-CUT ACROSS THE SCHOOL'S FOOT-BALL FIELD!
THIS THING'S MADE OF SOLID GOLD! I'LL MELT IT DOWN AN'-- HUH?? BATMAN!
SOON, IN THE COLLEGE MUSEUM'S MAYAN EXHIBIT...
HERE'S WHERE I MELT YOU DOWN A LITTLE, MR. RED HOOD!

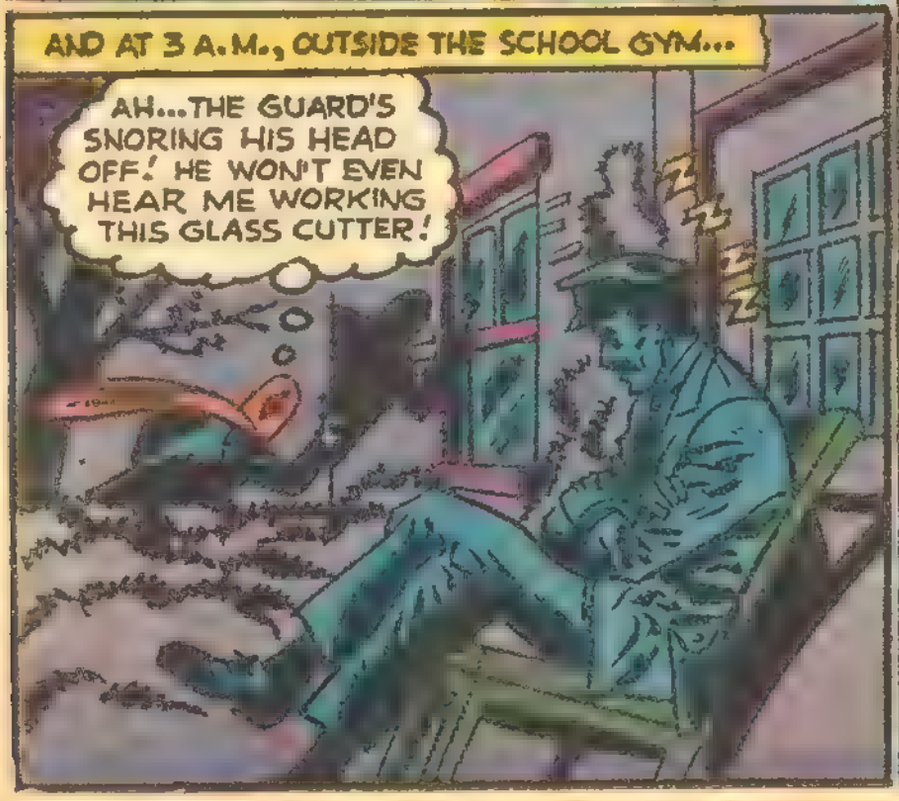
BUT...
HA,HA! AIN'T I THE MEAN ONE, THOUGH!
CRASH
WOW! THAT WAS CLOSE!
AND AS THE STUDENTS BURST IN...
WARNING-DANGER
GAS JETS IN OPERATION DO NOT ENTER!
OH-OH! NOT THROUGH THERE!
WAIT A MINUTE... THAT'S THE ROOM USED TO DISINFECT NEWLY-ARRIVED EXHIBITS... BUT WHY SHOULD HE BE AFRAID TO ENTER?
MUST HEAD HIM OFF OUTSIDE...
SMASH
MINUTES LATER, AS THE PURSUERS SCOUT THE CAMPUS...
I'M ALMOST POSITIVE I SAW HIM RUN THROUGH HERE!
LOOK! BATMAN'S GOT HIM!
WHY, HE'S ONE OF THE SCHOOL GARDENERS!
WHAT'S THE IDEA O' DUMPIN' ME? YOU GUYS NUTS OR SOMETHIN'?
HOLD IT... I REMEMBER THAT FACE! YOU'RE EARL "FARMERBOY" BENSON, AGE 22 -- EIGHT ARRESTS -- RELEASED FROM JAIL SIX MONTHS AGO!
YEAH, YEAH, THAT'S ME... BUT I'M GOIN' STRAIGHT NOW!

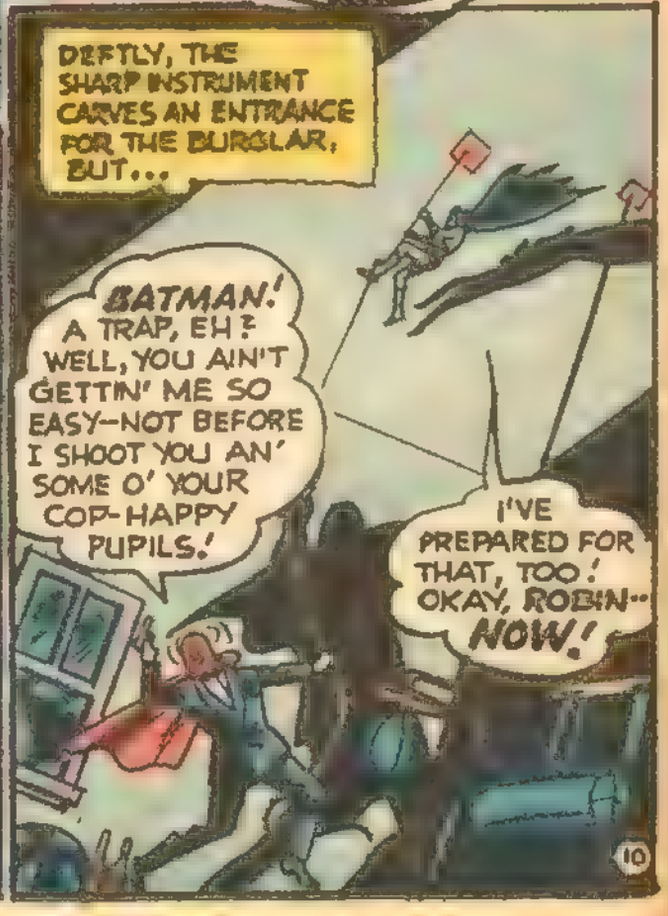

MAYBE! HE WOULD'VE HAD TIME TO HIDE HIS RED HOOD OUTFIT BEFORE BATMAN TACKLED HIM!
BUT BENSON IS ONLY 22 YEARS OLD! TEN YEARS AGO, HE'D HAVE BEEN A KID OF 12! SO HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE THE RED HOOD!

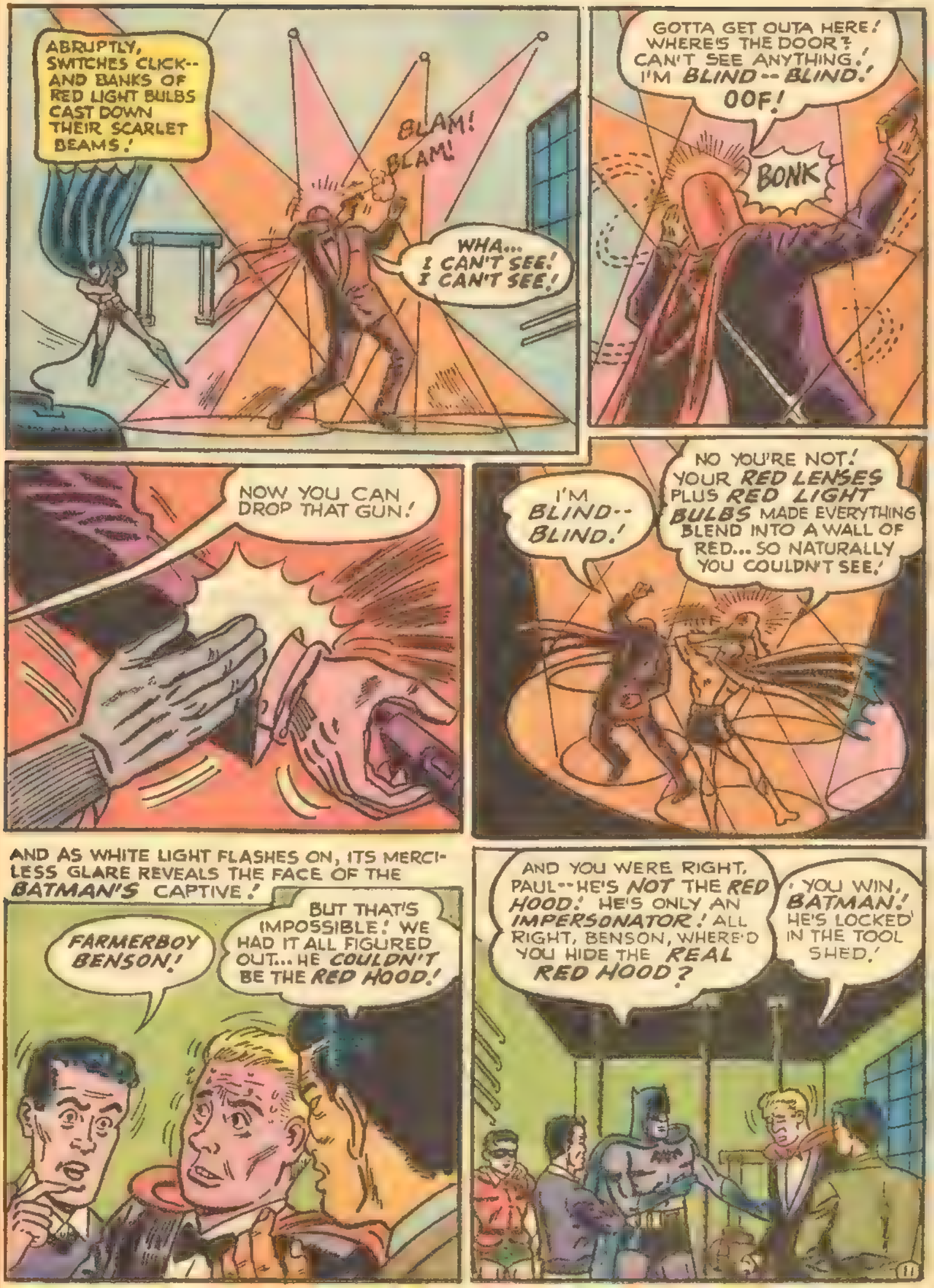

GOSH, THAT'S RIGHT! AND THE RED HOOD IS WELL EDUCATED, KNOWS SCIENCE AND PROBABLY HAS PLENTY LEFT FROM THAT MILLION HE STOLE! BENSON'S ALMOST ILLITERATE AND WORKS AT A POOR PAYING JOB!
OKAY, FARMER-BOY, YOU CAN LEAVE! I GUESS YOU COULDN'T BE THE RED HOOD!

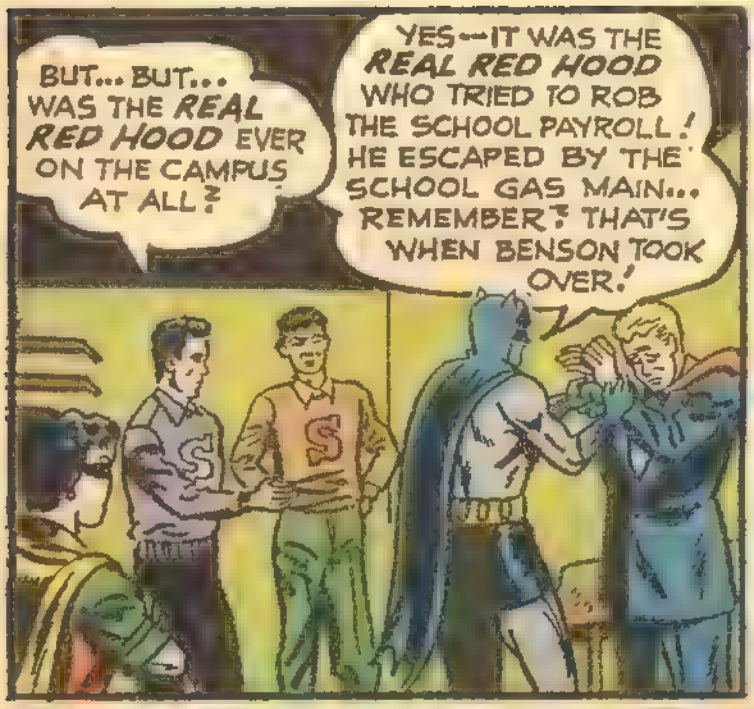

LATER, BATMAN HOLDS A SECRET CONFERENCE WITH DEAN CHALMERS...
CERTAINLY I'LL COOPERATE, BATMAN, BUT THE RED HOOD IS CUNNING! ARE YOU SURE HE'LL BITE AT SUCH AN OBVIOUS BAIT?
IF MY THEORY'S CORRECT, THE MAN WE WANT IS DUMB ENOUGH TO SWALLOW IT!

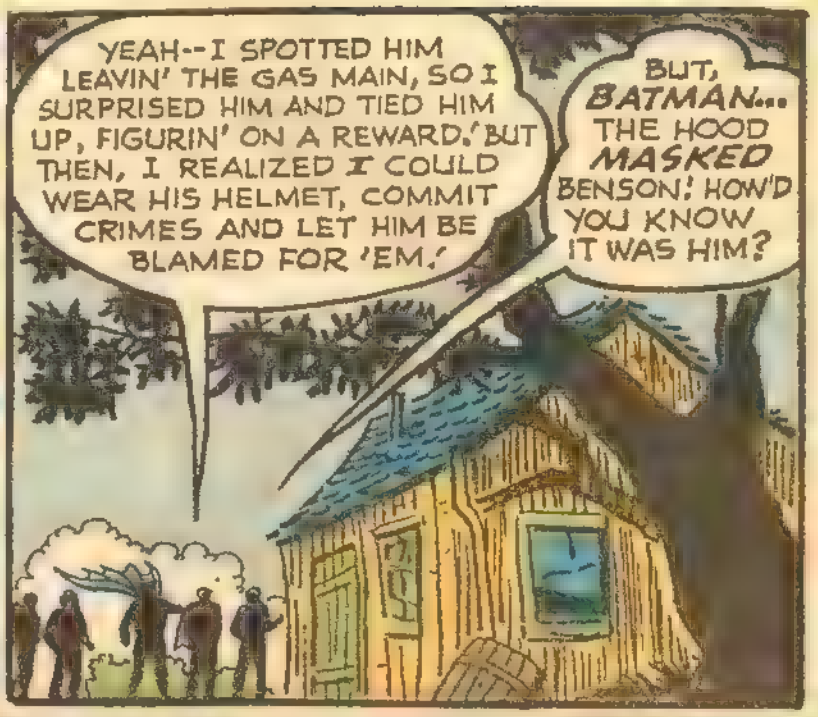
NEXT DAY, WITH THE DEAN'S PERMISSION, A FALSE STORY APPEARS IN THE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER...
STATE U TATLER
VALUABLE TROPHY EXHIBITED IN GYMNASIUM
GOLD FOOTBALL TROPHY ON LOAN FROM BAYVIEW TECH

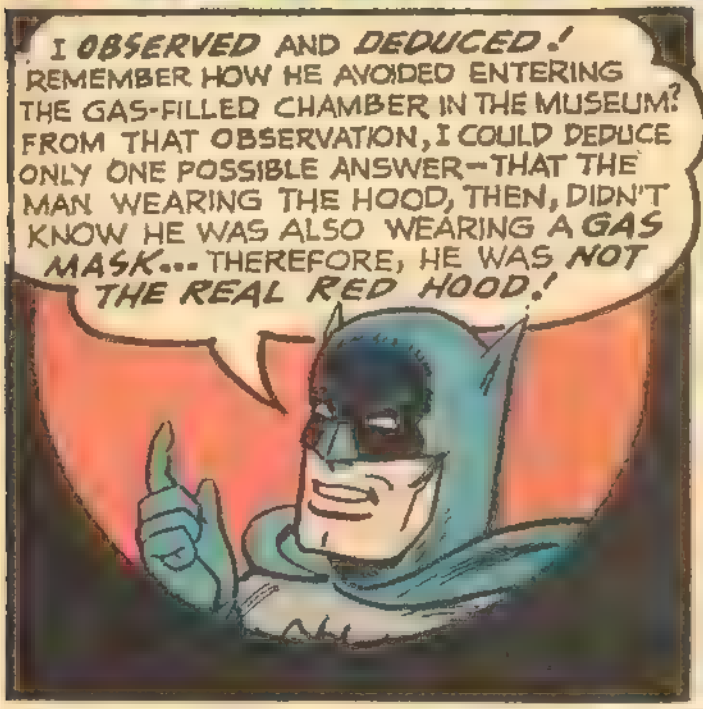

AND AT 3 A.M., OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GYM...
AH...THE GUARD'S SNORING HIS HEAD OFF! HE WON'T EVEN HEAR ME WORKING THIS GLASS CUTTER!

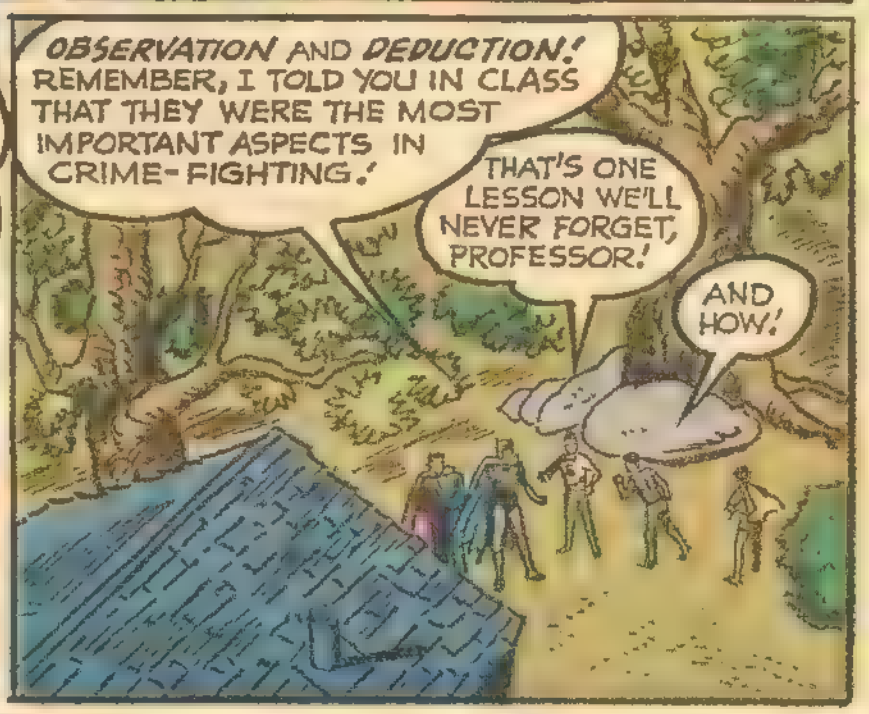

DEFTLY, THE SHARP INSTRUMENT CARVES AN ENTRANCE FOR THE BURGLAR, BUT...
BATMAN! A TRAP, EH? WELL, YOU AIN'T GETTIN' ME SO EASY--NOT BEFORE I SHOOT YOU AN' SOME O' YOUR COP-HAPPY PUPILS!
I'VE PREPARED FOR THAT, TOO! OKAY, ROBIN--NOW!

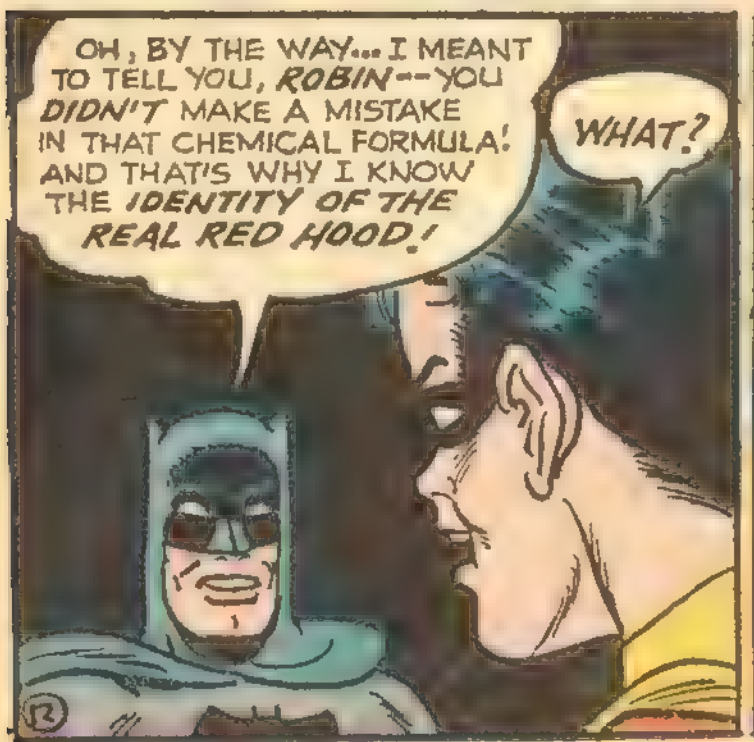

ABRUPTLY, SWITCHES CLICK-- AND BANKS OF RED LIGHT BULBS CAST DOWN THEIR SCARLET BEAMS!
BLAM! BLAM!
WHA... I CAN'T SEE! I CAN'T SEE!
GOTTA GET OUTA HERE! WHERE'S THE DOOR? CAN'T SEE ANYTHING! I'M BLIND--BLIND!
OOF!
BONK
NOW YOU CAN DROP THAT GUN!
I'M BLIND-- BLIND!
NO YOU'RE NOT! YOUR RED LENSES PLUS RED LIGHT BULBS MADE EVERYTHING BLEND INTO A WALL OF RED... SO NATURALLY YOU COULDN'T SEE!
AND AS WHITE LIGHT FLASHES ON, ITS MERCILESS GLARE REVEALS THE FACE OF THE BATMAN'S CAPTIVE!
FARMERBOY BENSON!
BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! WE HAD IT ALL FIGURED OUT... HE COULDN'T BE THE RED HOOD!
AND YOU WERE RIGHT, PAUL--HE'S NOT THE RED HOOD! HE'S ONLY AN IMPERSONATOR! ALL RIGHT, BENSON, WHERE'D YOU HIDE THE REAL RED HOOD?
YOU WIN, BATMAN! HE'S LOCKED IN THE TOOL SHED.
11

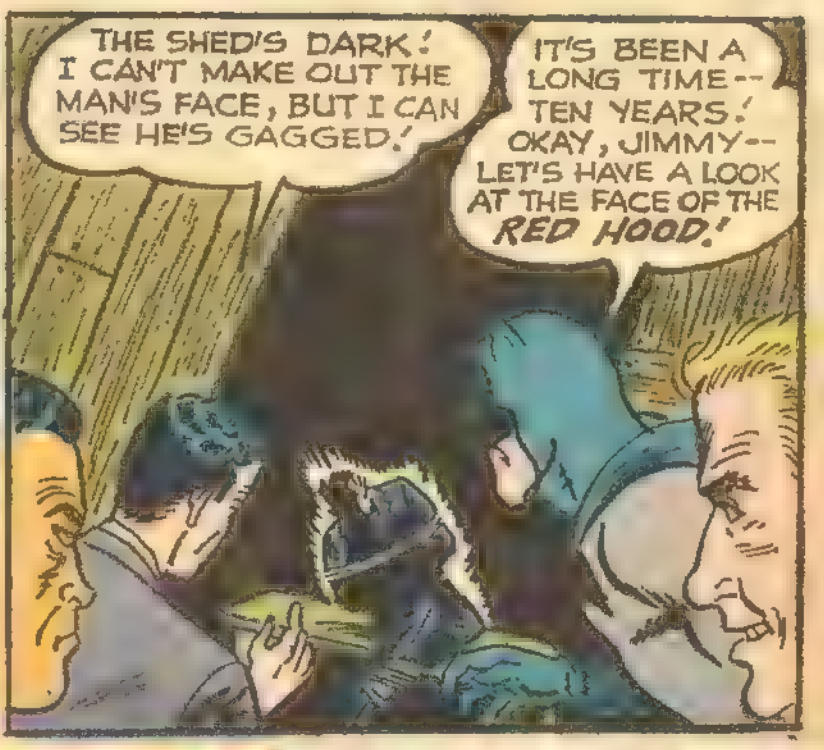

BUT... BUT... WAS THE REAL RED HOOD EVER ON THE CAMPUS AT ALL?
YES--IT WAS THE REAL RED HOOD WHO TRIED TO ROB THE SCHOOL PAYROLL! HE ESCAPED BY THE SCHOOL GAS MAIN... REMEMBER? THAT'S WHEN BENSON TOOK OVER!

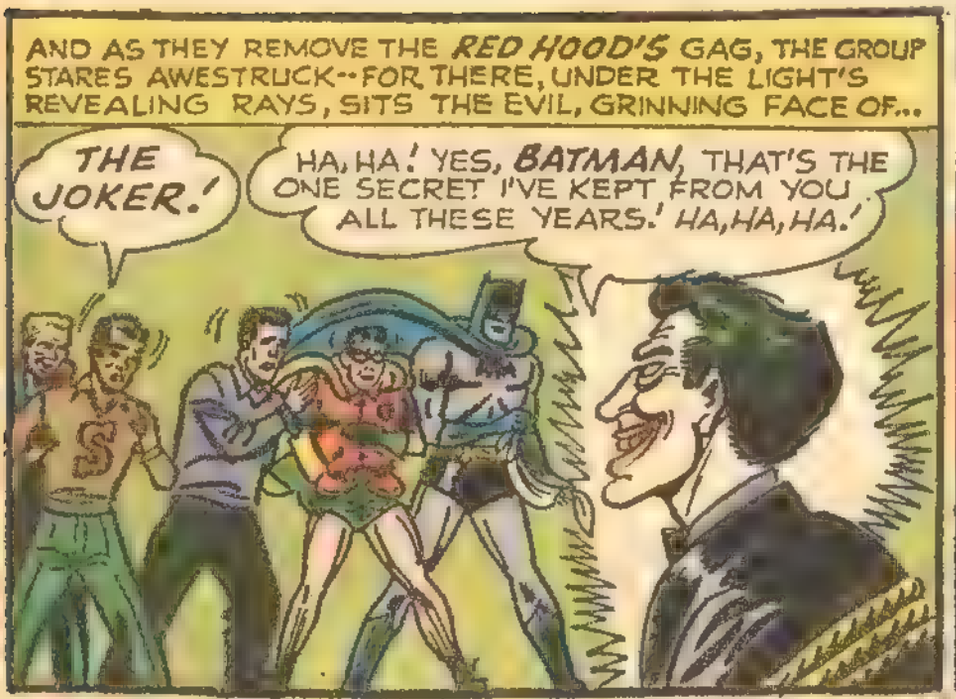

YEAH--I SPOTTED HIM LEAVIN' THE GAS MAIN, SO I SURPRISED HIM AND TIED HIM UP, FIGURIN' ON A REWARD. BUT THEN, I REALIZED I COULD WEAR HIS HELMET, COMMIT CRIMES AND LET HIM BE BLAMED FOR 'EM.
BUT, BATMAN... THE HOOD MASKED BENSON! HOW'D YOU KNOW IT WAS HIM?

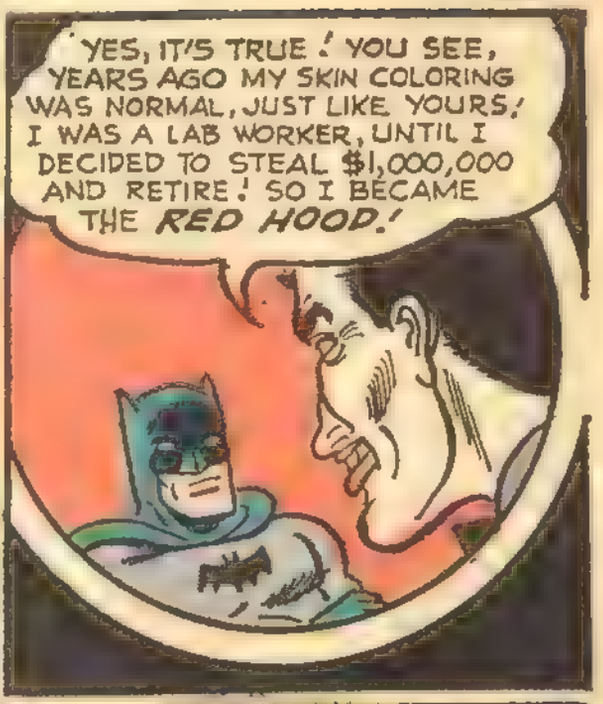

I OBSERVED AND DEDUCED! REMEMBER HOW HE AVOIDED ENTERING THE GAS-FILLED CHAMBER IN THE MUSEUM? FROM THAT OBSERVATION, I COULD DEDUCE ONLY ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER--THAT THE MAN WEARING THE HOOD, THEN, DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS ALSO WEARING A GAS MASK... THEREFORE, HE WAS NOT THE REAL RED HOOD!


OBSERVATION AND DEDUCTION! REMEMBER, I TOLD YOU IN CLASS THAT THEY WERE THE MOST IMPORTANT ASPECTS IN CRIME-FIGHTING.
THAT'S ONE LESSON WE'LL NEVER FORGET, PROFESSOR!
AND HOW!


OH, BY THE WAY... I MEANT TO TELL YOU, ROBIN--YOU DIDN'T MAKE A MISTAKE IN THAT CHEMICAL FORMULA! AND THAT'S WHY I KNOW THE IDENTITY OF THE REAL RED HOOD!
WHAT?

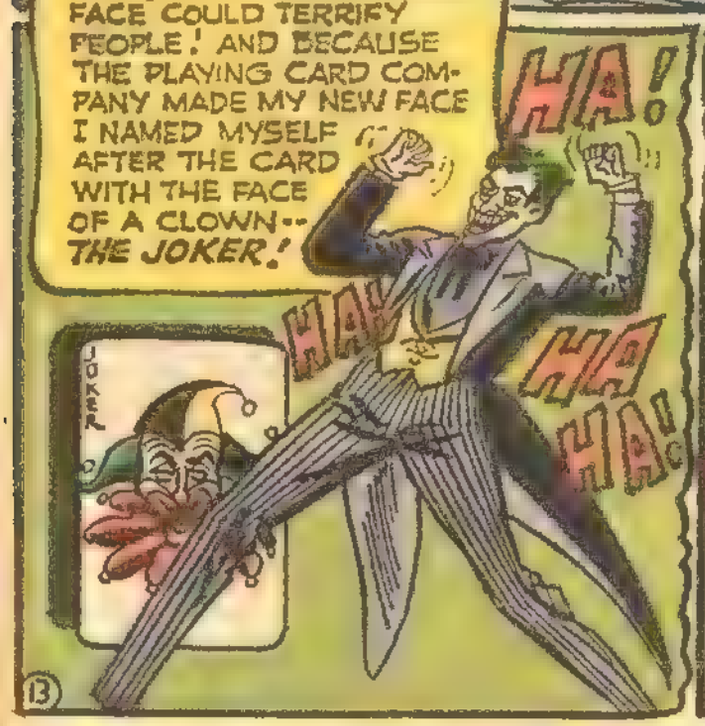

THE SHED'S DARK! I CAN'T MAKE OUT THE MAN'S FACE, BUT I CAN SEE HE'S GAGGED!
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME-- TEN YEARS! OKAY, JIMMY-- LET'S HAVE A LOOK AT THE FACE OF THE RED HOOD!

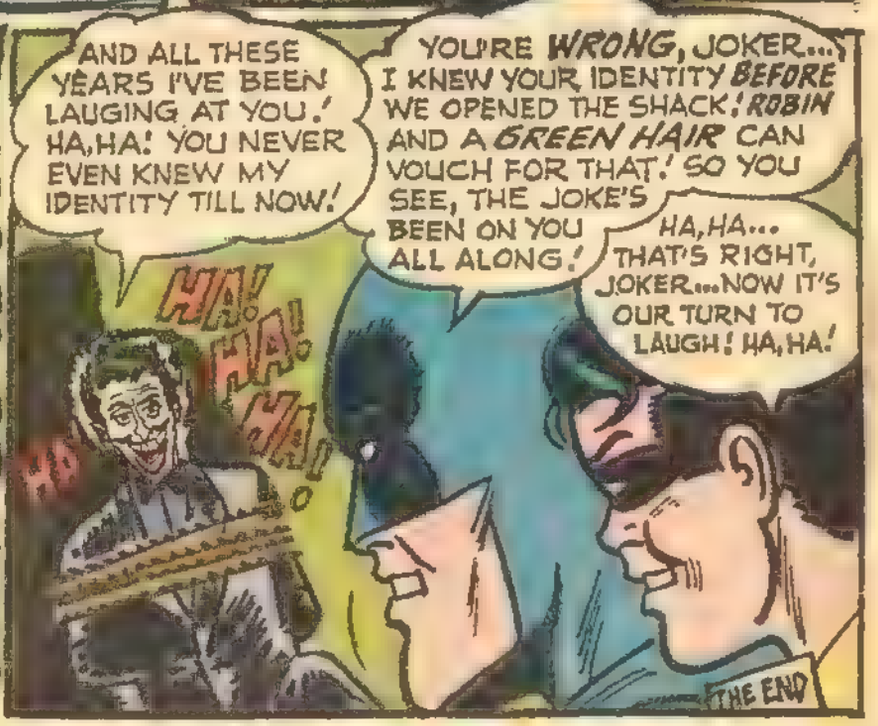

AND AS THEY REMOVE THE RED HOOD'S GAG, THE GROUP STARES AWESTRUCK--FOR THERE, UNDER THE LIGHT'S REVEALING RAYS, SITS THE EVIL, GRINNING FACE OF...
THE JOKER!
HA, HA! YES, BATMAN, THAT'S THE ONE SECRET I'VE KEPT FROM YOU ALL THESE YEARS! HA, HA, HA!

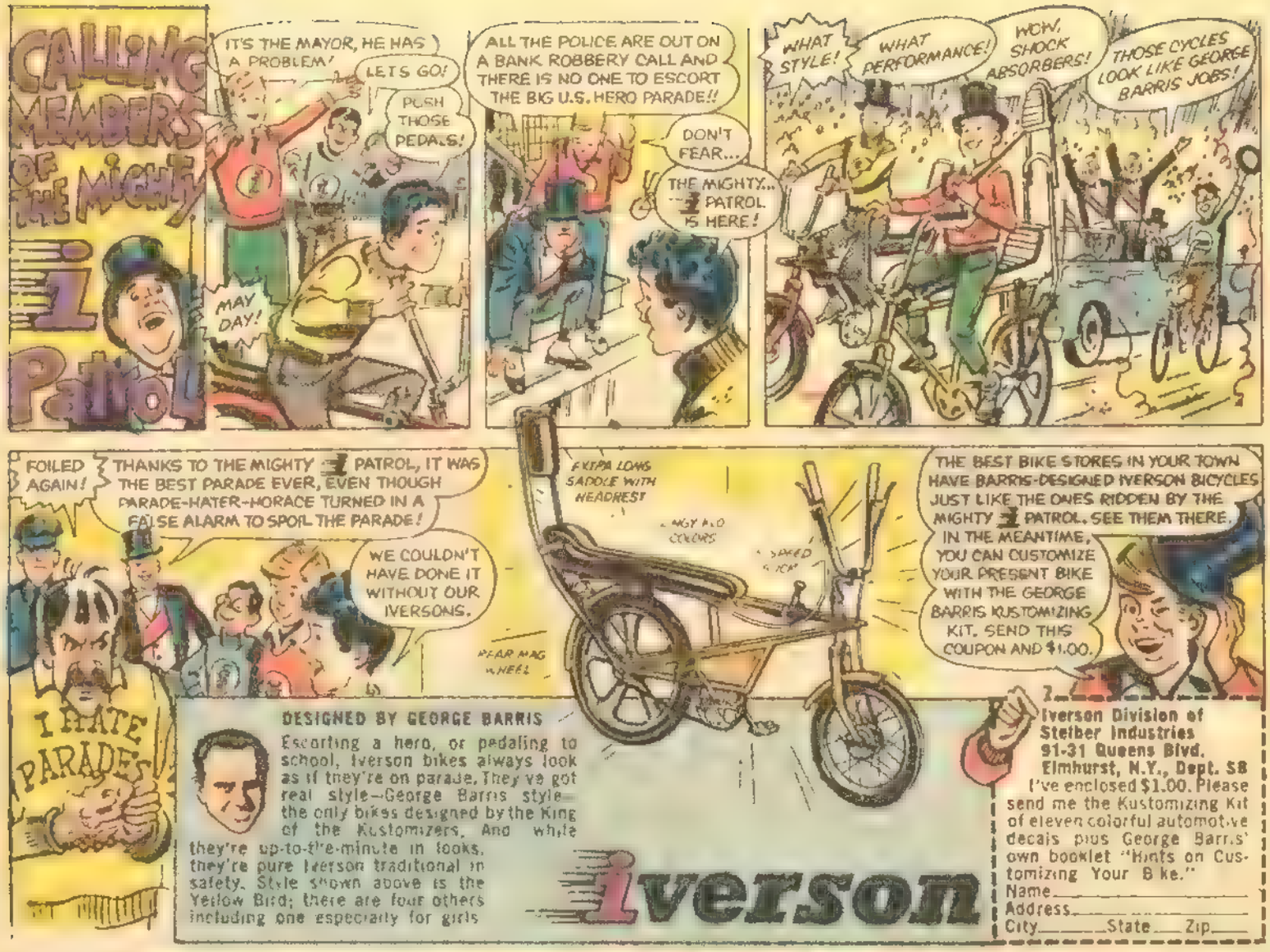

YES, IT'S TRUE! YOU SEE, YEARS AGO MY SKIN COLORING WAS NORMAL, JUST LIKE YOURS! I WAS A LAB WORKER, UNTIL I DECIDED TO STEAL $1,000,000 AND RETIRE! SO I BECAME THE RED HOOD!

"FINALLY, I REACHED MY GOAL--BY STEALING FROM THE MONARCH PLAYING CARD COMPANY! MY HOOD'S OXYGEN TUBE ENABLED ME TO ESCAPE BY SWIMMING UNDER THE SURFACE OF THE POOL OF CHEMICAL WASTES..."

"BUT AT HOME I LOOKED AT MYSELF WITH GROWING HORROR..."
THAT CHEMICAL VAPOR--IT TURNED MY HAIR GREEN, MY LIPS ROUGE-RED, MY SKIN CHALK-WHITE! I LOOK LIKE AN EVIL CLOWN! WHAT A JOKE ON ME!


"THEN, I REALIZED MY NEW FACE COULD TERRIFY PEOPLE! AND BECAUSE THE PLAYING CARD COMPANY MADE MY NEW FACE I NAMED MYSELF AFTER THE CARD WITH THE FACE OF A CLOWN--THE JOKER!
HA!
HA!
HA!
JOKER
13


AND ALL THESE YEARS I'VE BEEN LAUGING AT YOU! HA, HA! YOU NEVER EVEN KNEW MY IDENTITY TILL NOW!
YOU'RE WRONG, JOKER... I KNEW YOUR IDENTITY BEFORE WE OPENED THE SHACK! ROBIN AND A GREEN HAIR CAN VOUCH FOR THAT! SO YOU SEE, THE JOKE'S BEEN ON YOU ALL ALONG!
HA, HA... THAT'S RIGHT, JOKER...NOW IT'S OUR TURN TO LAUGH! HA, HA!
HA! HA! HA!
THE END


CALLING MEMBERS OF THE MIGHTY I Patrol
IT'S THE MAYOR, HE HAS A PROBLEM!
LET'S GO!
PUSH THOSE PEDALS!
MAY DAY!
ALL THE POLICE ARE OUT ON A BANK ROBBERY CALL AND THERE IS NO ONE TO ESCORT THE BIG U.S. HERO PARADE!!
DON'T FEAR...
THE MIGHTY... I PATROL IS HERE!
WHAT STYLE!
WHAT PERFORMANCE!
WOW, SHOCK ABSORBERS!
THOSE CYCLES LOOK LIKE GEORGE BARRIS JOBS!
FOILED AGAIN!
THANKS TO THE MIGHTY I PATROL, IT WAS THE BEST PARADE EVER, EVEN THOUGH PARADE-HATER-HORACE TURNED IN A FALSE ALARM TO SPOIL THE PARADE!
WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT OUR IVERSONS.
I HATE PARADES
EXTRA LONG SADDLE WITH HEADREST
REAR MAG WHEEL
THE BEST BIKE STORES IN YOUR TOWN HAVE BARRIS-DESIGNED IVERSON BICYCLES JUST LIKE THE ONES RIDDEN BY THE MIGHTY I PATROL. SEE THEM THERE.
IN THE MEANTIME, YOU CAN CUSTOMIZE YOUR PRESENT BIKE WITH THE GEORGE BARRIS KUSTOMIZING KIT. SEND THIS COUPON AND $1.00.
DESIGNED BY GEORGE BARRIS
Escorting a hero, or pedaling to school, Iverson bikes always look as if they're on parade. They've got real style—George Barris style—the only bikes designed by the King of the Kustomizers. And while they're up-to-the-minute in looks, they're pure Iverson traditional in safety. Style shown above is the Yellow Bird; there are four others including one especially for girls
Iverson
Iverson Division of Steiber Industries
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I've enclosed $1.00. Please send me the Kustomizing Kit of eleven colorful automotive decals plus George Barris' own booklet "Hints on Customizing Your Bike."
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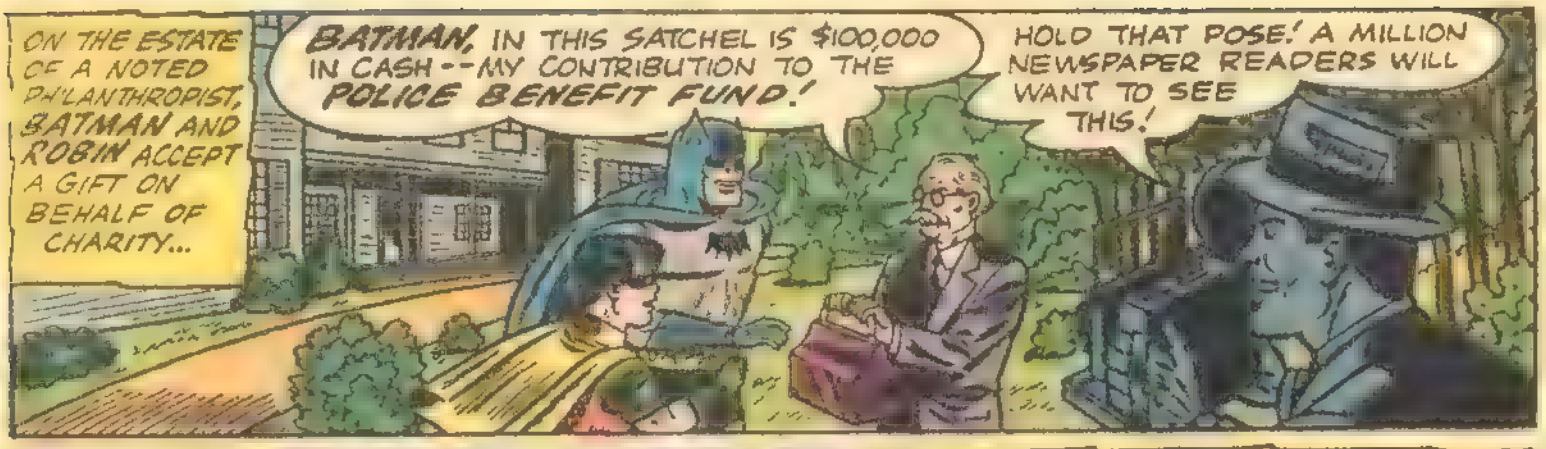
ALL SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS COMICS IN MAY THROUGH OCTOBER HAVE THE FREE COUPON!

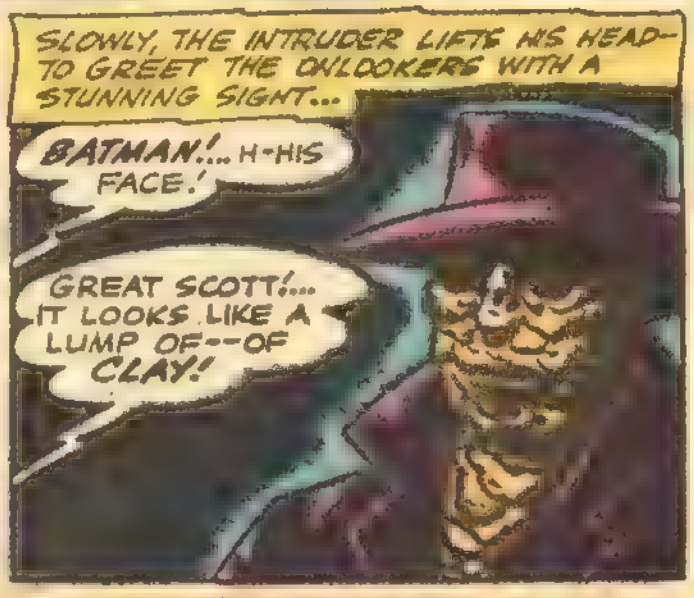
Free Ride BATMAN SLIDE

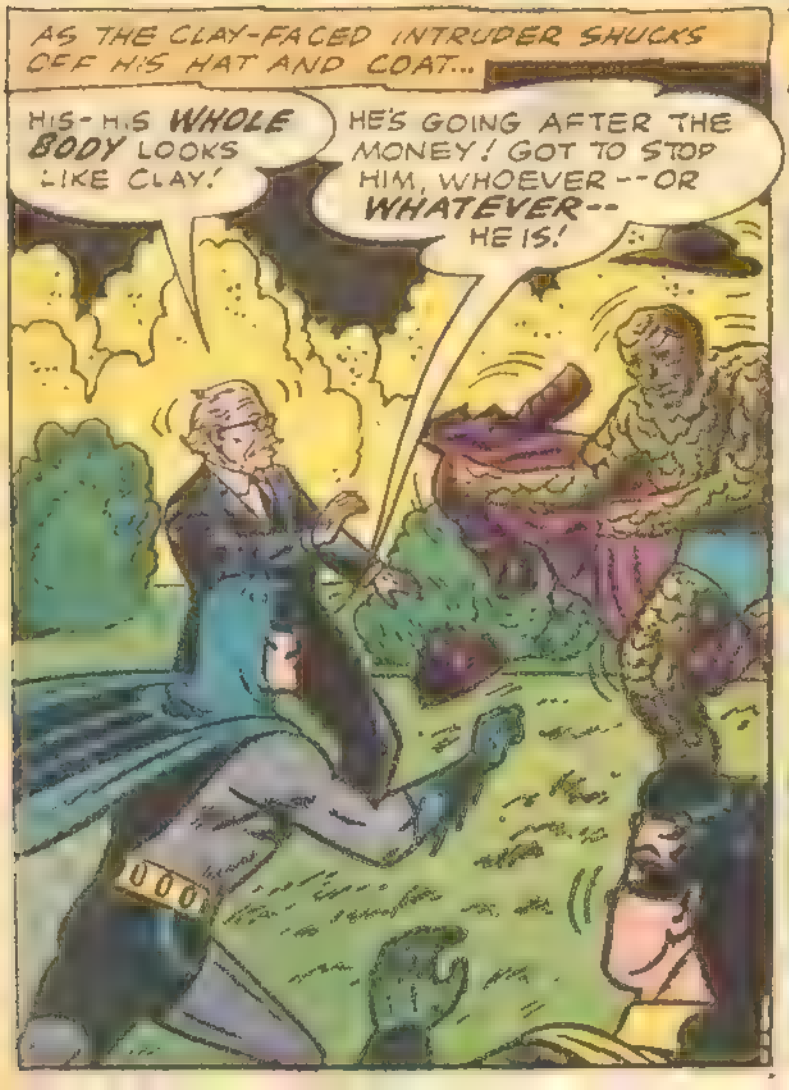
Free Ride CAROUSEL

THERE WAS NO STOPPING THIS BRAZEN ENEMY--FOR BY A MERE WISH, HE COULD ALTER HIS BODY TO ANY SHAPE HE CHOSE! SMALL WONDER THAT HE LAUGHED AT THE LAW--LAUGHED, EVEN, AT BATMAN AND ROBIN, WHO SEEMED UNABLE TO MEET...
THE CHALLENGE OF CLAY-FACE
BATMAN
With ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER
ROBIN, GET BACK! CLAY-FACE IS CHANGING HIS FORM AGAIN... GROWING WINGS, TALONS--BECOMING A GIANT EAGLE!
BOB KANE


ON THE ESTATE OF A NOTED PHILANTHROPIST, BATMAN AND ROBIN ACCEPT A GIFT ON BEHALF OF CHARITY...
BATMAN, IN THIS SATCHEL IS $100,000 IN CASH--MY CONTRIBUTION TO THE POLICE BENEFIT FUND!
HOLD THAT POSE! A MILLION NEWSPAPER READERS WILL WANT TO SEE THIS!

JUST THEN...
SAY--WHO'S THAT IN THE BRUSH?


SLOWLY, THE INTRUDER LIFTS HIS HEAD--TO GREET THE ONLOOKERS WITH A STUNNING SIGHT...
BATMAN!... H-HIS FACE!
GREAT SCOTT!... IT LOOKS LIKE A LUMP OF--OF CLAY!


AS THE CLAY-FACED INTRUDER SHUCKS OFF HIS HAT AND COAT...
HIS-HIS WHOLE BODY LOOKS LIKE CLAY!
HE'S GOING AFTER THE MONEY! GOT TO STOP HIM, WHOEVER--OR WHATEVER--HE IS!

BUT WHEN BATMAN GRAPPLES WITH THE FIGURE...
HIS "FLESH"--SOFT AND MALLEABLE... JUST LIKE CLAY!
LOOK--THE THING'S FORM IS ALTERING--BECOMING LONGER...
2

GRADUALLY, BATMAN FEELS THE FORM GROW HARDER AND HARDER, UNTIL...
HOLY SMOKE! H-HE'S CHANGED INTO A GIANT PYTHON!
BUT AGAIN, THE BIZARRE BEING ALTERS HIS FORM, SO THAT...
LOOK OUT! HE'S CHANGED INTO A BUZZ-SAW SHAPE!
RECOVERING FROM HIS SURPRISE, THE BOY WONDER MOVES INTO ACTION...
THE BAT-ROPE SHOULD BE STRONG ENOUGH TO HOGTIE HIM!
GOOD WORK, ROBIN! HANG ON-- I'LL HELP YOU HOLD THE ROPE!
NOW, HE'S FORMING WINGS--TALONS...
HE'S CHANGED INTO A HUGE EAGLE-- AND THERE HE GOES, WITH THE SATCHEL OF MONEY!
A BEING THAT CAN CHANGE INTO COUNTLESS SHAPES! IS HE A HUMAN OR--OR SOME SORT OF CREATURE?

SOON AFTER, THE "EAGLE" ALIGHTS ON A TENEMENT ROOF, AND WALKS ON TALONED FEET...

... FEET THAT CHANGE INTO CLAY-LIKE SHAPES...

... AND, FINALLY, INTO THOSE OF A **MAN!**

DOWN HE DESCENDS, INTO A SHABBY ATTIC, WHERE...

:HA, HA,! $100,000! MATT HAGEN -- YOU'RE RICH... RICH!

HOW DID THIS MAN ACQUIRE HIS UNIQUE POWERS? TO LEARN THE ANSWER, WE MUST TURN THE CLOCK BACK TO EARLY MORNING...

... WHEN MATT HAGEN WENT SKIN-DIVING IN SEARCH OF HIDDEN WEALTH...

ONLY CHUMPS WORK AT JOBS... NOT ME! ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'LL FIND A SUNKEN FRIGATE LOADED WITH TREASURE! I'LL BE RICH!

LATER, SURFACING TO REST, HAGEN FOUND HIMSELF IN AN UNDISCOVERED GROTTO...

HMM... A NATURAL POOL! STRANGE -- IT SEEMS TO BUBBLE UP COLORS OF EVERY SHADE! THIS RATES A CLOSER LOOK...

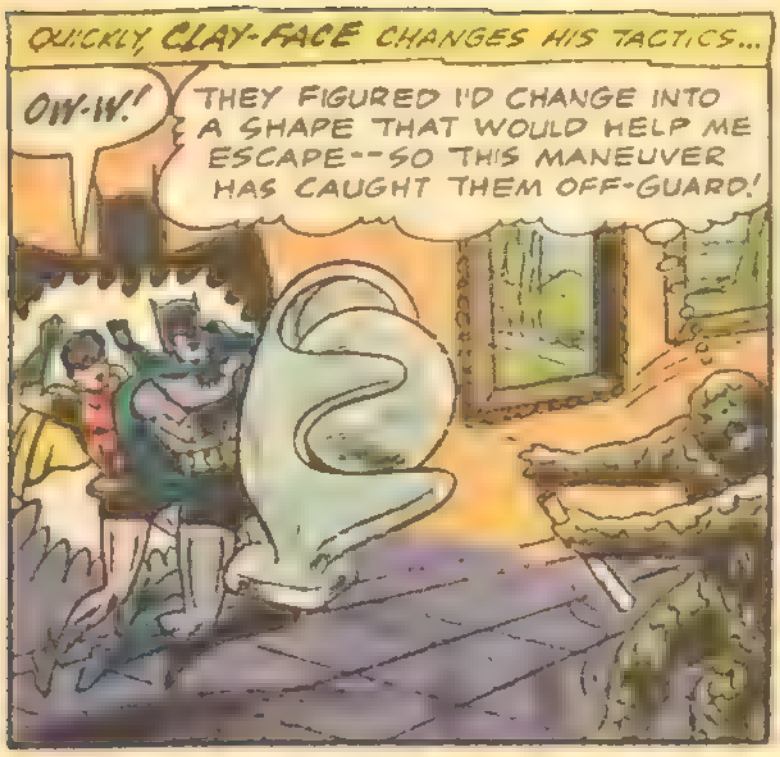
BUT A STONE, SLIDING UNDERFOOT, SENT HIM PLUNGING **INTO** THE POOL...

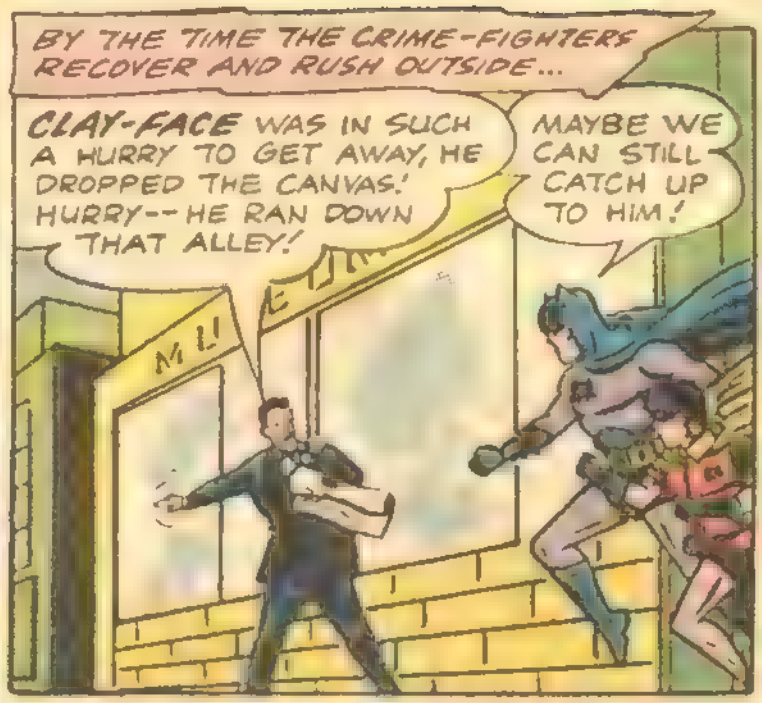
THIS ISN'T WATER! IT'S A KIND OF PROTOPLASM -- CLINGING TO ME... SENDING SOME STRANGE ENERGY THROUGH MY BODY!

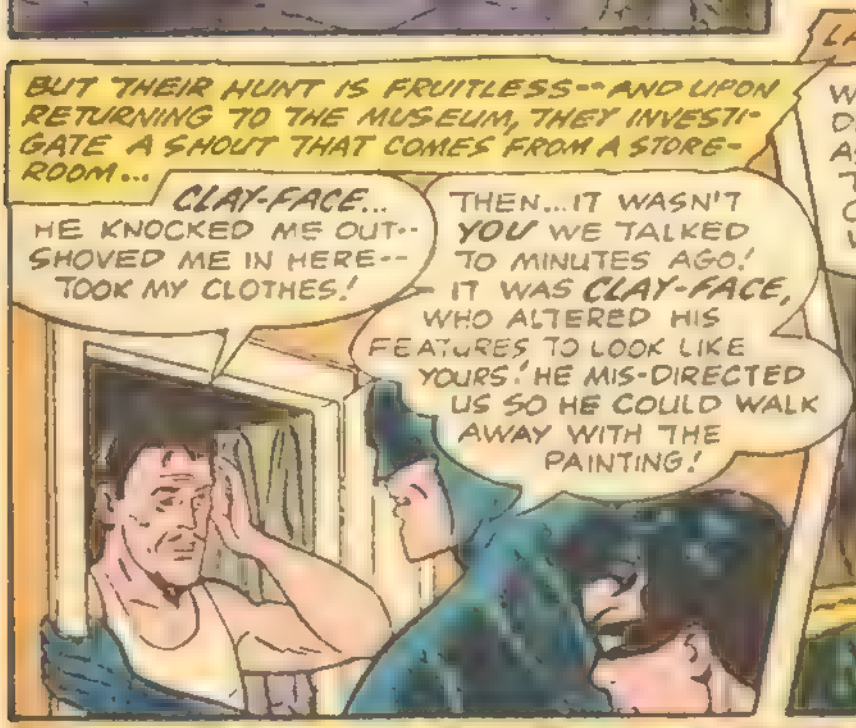
CLIMBING OUT, HAGEN REELED WITH SHOCK AND TERROR...
AGHH--THAT POOL DID SOMETHING TO MY BODY! IT'S LIKE SOME KIND OF CLAY... HARD CLAY!
AND NOW, HIS MIND COULD ONLY CONCENTRATE ON ONE SINGLE THOUGHT...
;SOB! IF ONLY I COULD BE AS I USED TO BE--IF ONLY I COULD LOOK AS I DID BEFORE...
STRANGE--I FELT AS IF MY BRAIN WERE SENDING ENERGY THROUGH MY BODY--COMMANDING MY BODY... MAKING IT CHANGE!
IT IS CHANGING! MY BODY'S SOFT AND PLIABLE NOW! IT'S AS IF MY MIND IS MOLDING MY BODY LIKE SOFT CLAY...
I'M MYSELF AGAIN! MY BODY IS HARD AGAIN--BECAUSE THE CHANGE IS NOW COMPLETE!
THAT STRANGE PROTOPLASM... A FREAK OF NATURE--OR MAYBE IT DRIFTED HERE FROM OUTER SPACE! I WONDER IF THE POWER IT GAVE ME IS GONE? I'LL TRY ANOTHER MENTAL COMMAND...
ONE TEST FOLLOWED ANOTHER, TILL FINALLY...
NOW I'M A CENTAUR! THIS PROVES IT... I CAN CHANGE TO ANYTHING--JUST BY CONCENTRATING! I CAN EVEN DUPLICATE COLORS! WITH THIS POWER, I CAN DO ANYTHING I WANT--TAKE ANYTHING I WANT...;HA, HA, HA!
5

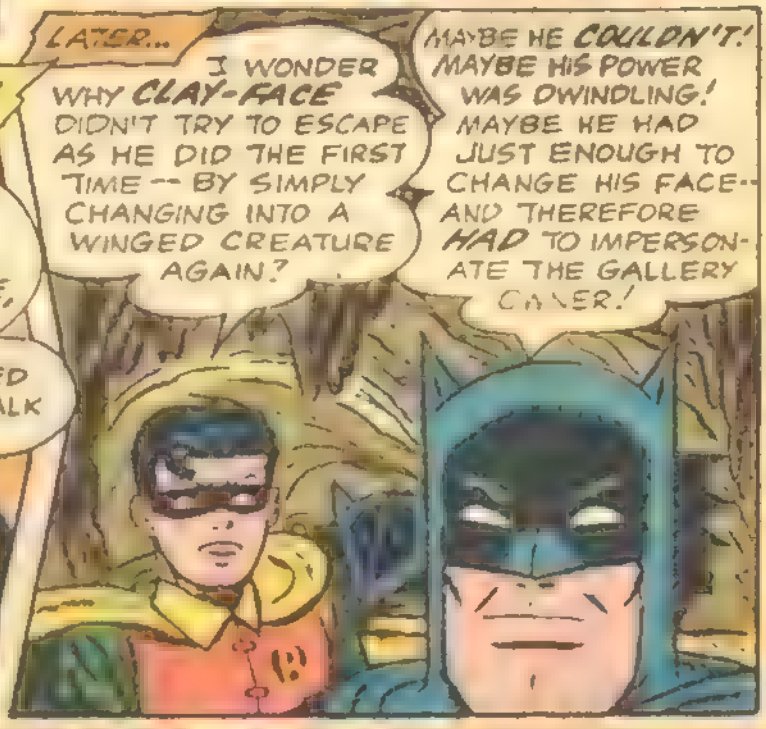
AND SO, THAT VERY AFTERNOON, BY STEALING THE CHARITY FUNDS, HAGEN MADE HIS POWER PAY OFF--IN CRIME..
NOW THAT I'M RICH, I'LL LIVE LIKE THE RICH DO! I'LL EVEN COLLECT ART LIKE THEY DO... BUT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS--I WON'T PAY FOR MY COLLECTION!
MEANWHILE, IN THE CITY ROOM OF THE GOTHAM GAZETTE...
... AND I GOT A SHOT OF THE CLAY-FACED CHARACTER, TOO!
GREAT! NOW LET'S SEE.. WHAT'LL WE CALL HIM IN OUR HEADLINES? I KNOW--THE OBVIOUS NAME...CLAY-FACE!*
*THE STORY OF THE FIRST CLAY-FACE, WHO CHANGED HIS APPEARANCE WITH MAKEUP, WAS TOLD IN GIANT BATMAN NO. 108.
AND LATER, IN THE BAT-CAVE...
GOLLY, BATMAN--WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER CLAY-FACE IS A CREATURE OR A HUMAN BEING...
USE YOUR COMMON SENSE, ROBIN! WOULD A CREATURE STEAL MONEY? WOULD IT BE OF ANY USE TO A CREATURE?
OF COURSE!...HE MUST BE HUMAN...A MAN--AN ORDINARY CROOK WHOSE REAL IDENTITY WE DON'T KNOW!
YES, ROBIN--A CROOK WHO HAS A POWER THAT CAN MAKE HIM THE MOST DANGEROUS VILLAIN WE'VE EVER FOUGHT!
MANY HOURS LATER, AS PATRONS WANDER ABOUT A NOTED ART GALLERY...
EEK!... A LION IS LOOSE!
RUN! RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!
AND, WHEN ONLY THE FRIGHTENED OWNER REMAINS...
THE LION'S HEAD... IT'S CHANGING TO THAT OF--OR CLAY-FACE!
6

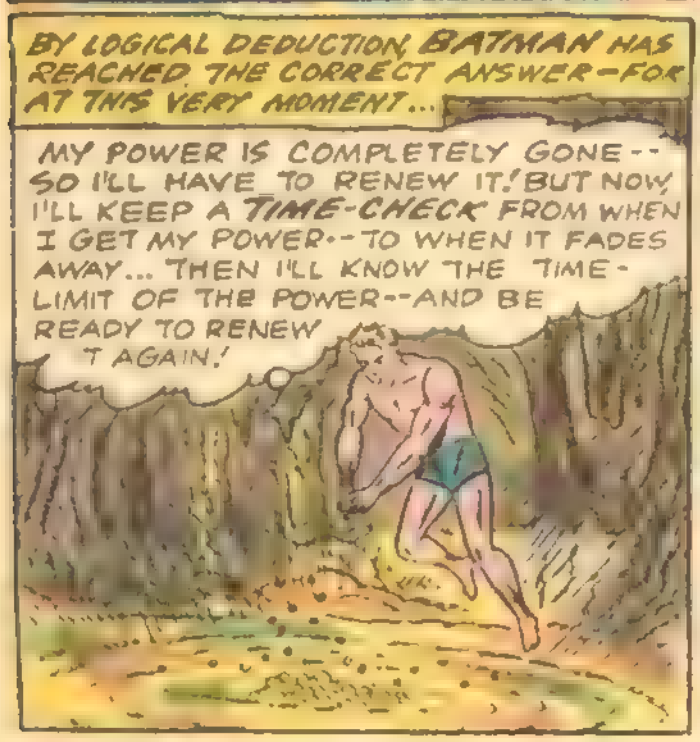
NEARBY, BATMAN AND ROBIN HEAR THE SHOUTS OF THE FLEEING ART PATRONS, AND...
ROBIN, WE'VE GOT TO TRY TRAPPING HIM! THAT CLOSET DOOR...
I GET YOU...
ON SIGNAL, BATMAN CATAPULTS FORWARD-- AS ROBIN WHIPS OPEN THE CLOSET DOOR, AND...
NOW!
OOF!
DID IT! WE'VE GOT HIM TRAPPED INSIDE!
BUT NEXT INSTANT...
GREAT SCOTT! HE CAN MAKE HIS BODY SMALL ENOUGH TO SLIP OUT THROUGH THE KEYHOLE!
NOW I'LL GRAB THAT ROLLED-UP PAINTING, CHANGE INTO A GIANT BIRD AGAIN-- AND FLY OUT OF HERE WITH MY LOOT!
A MOMENT LATER, HOWEVER...
SOMETHING'S WRONG! MY BODY WON'T CHANGE! MY POWER...IT'S EBBING!

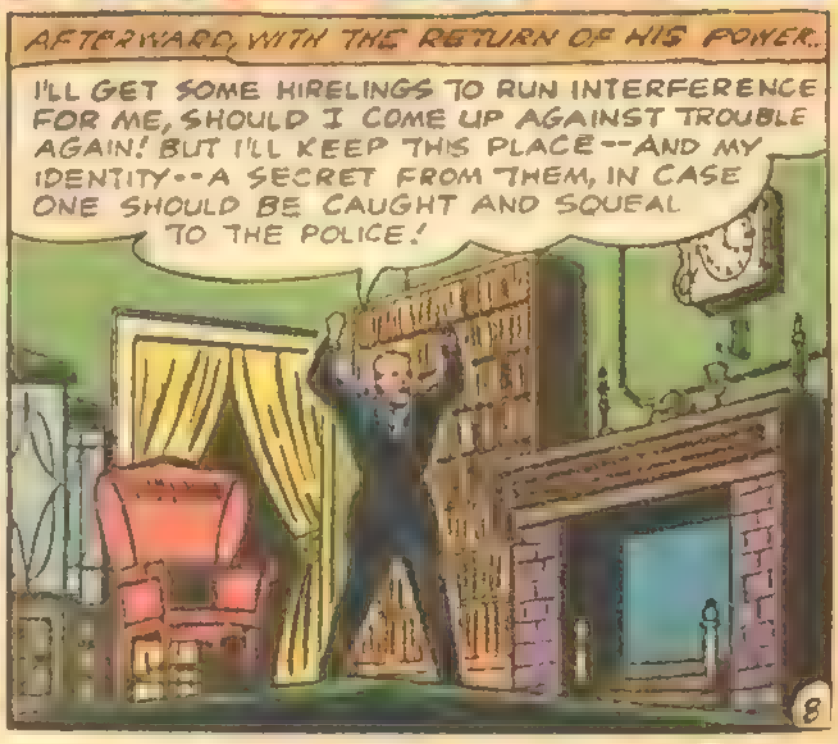

QUICKLY, CLAY-FACE CHANGES HIS TACTICS...
OW-W!
THEY FIGURED I'D CHANGE INTO A SHAPE THAT WOULD HELP ME ESCAPE--SO THIS MANEUVER HAS CAUGHT THEM OFF-GUARD!


BY THE TIME THE CRIME-FIGHTERS RECOVER AND RUSH OUTSIDE...
CLAY-FACE WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO GET AWAY, HE DROPPED THE CANVAS! HURRY--HE RAN DOWN THAT ALLEY!
MAYBE WE CAN STILL CATCH UP TO HIM!

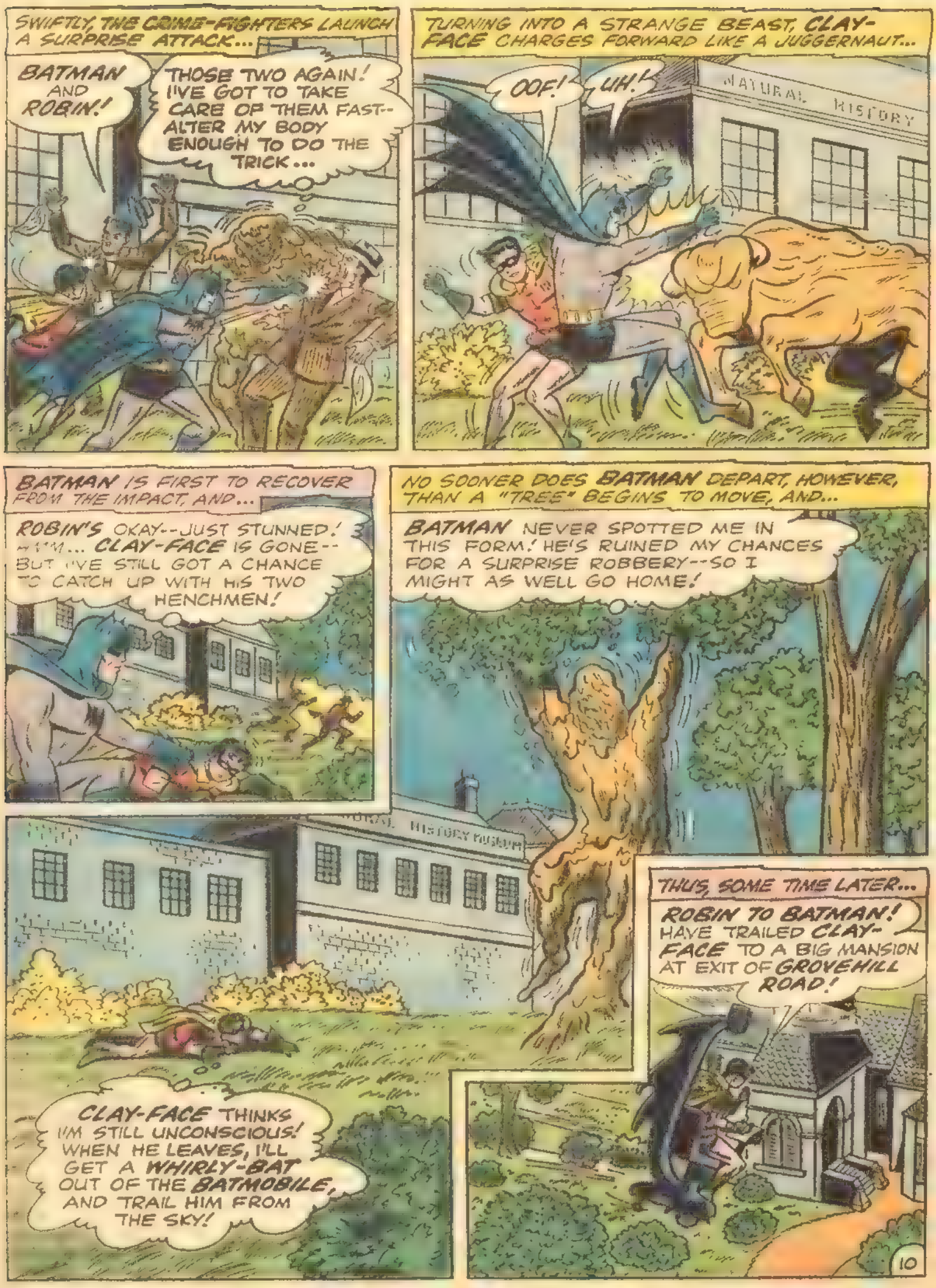

BUT THEIR HUNT IS FRUITLESS--AND UPON RETURNING TO THE MUSEUM, THEY INVESTIGATE A SHOUT THAT COMES FROM A STOREROOM...
CLAY-FACE... HE KNOCKED ME OUT--SHOVED ME IN HERE--TOOK MY CLOTHES!
THEN...IT WASN'T YOU WE TALKED TO MINUTES AGO! IT WAS CLAY-FACE, WHO ALTERED HIS FEATURES TO LOOK LIKE YOURS! HE MIS-DIRECTED US SO HE COULD WALK AWAY WITH THE PAINTING!


LATER...
I WONDER WHY CLAY-FACE DIDN'T TRY TO ESCAPE AS HE DID THE FIRST TIME--BY SIMPLY CHANGING INTO A WINGED CREATURE AGAIN?
MAYBE HE COULDN'T! MAYBE HIS POWER WAS DWINDLING! MAYBE HE HAD JUST ENOUGH TO CHANGE HIS FACE--AND THEREFORE HAD TO IMPERSONATE THE GALLERY OWNER!


BY LOGICAL DEDUCTION, BATMAN HAS REACHED THE CORRECT ANSWER--FOR AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
MY POWER IS COMPLETELY GONE--SO I'LL HAVE TO RENEW IT! BUT NOW, I'LL KEEP A TIME-CHECK FROM WHEN I GET MY POWER--TO WHEN IT FADES AWAY... THEN I'LL KNOW THE TIME-LIMIT OF THE POWER--AND BE READY TO RENEW IT AGAIN!


AFTERWARD, WITH THE RETURN OF HIS POWER...
I'LL GET SOME HIRELINGS TO RUN INTERFERENCE FOR ME, SHOULD I COME UP AGAINST TROUBLE AGAIN! BUT I'LL KEEP THIS PLACE--AND MY IDENTITY--A SECRET FROM THEM, IN CASE ONE SHOULD BE CAUGHT AND SQUEAL TO THE POLICE!

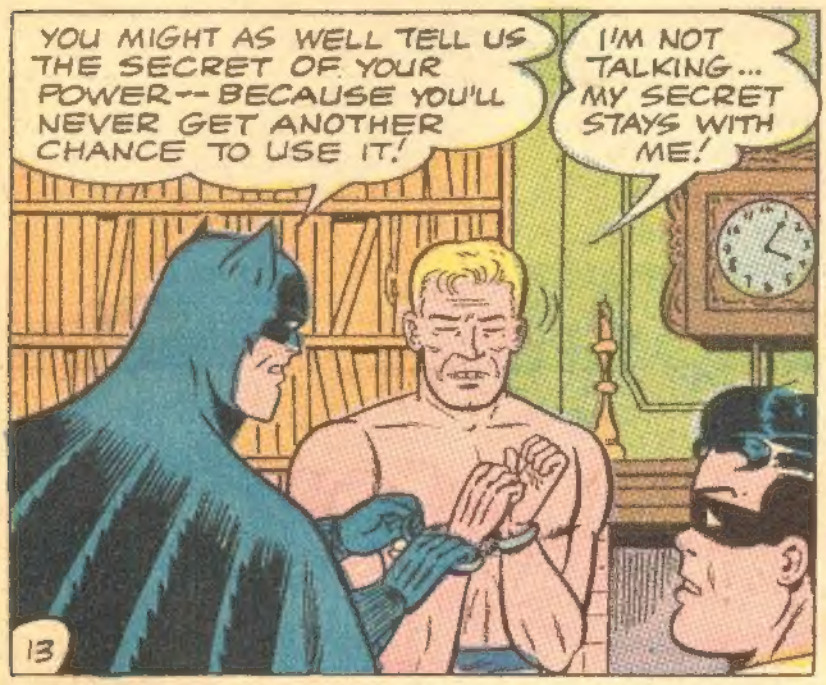
SO THAT NIGHT, AT AN APPOINTED SPOT, A DISGUISED CLAY-FACE ADDRESSES HIS NEW RECRUITS...
BY WORKING WITH ME, YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT INTERFERENCE FROM BATMAN OR THE POLICE! AS YOU CAN SEE, MY POWER IS UNLIMITED!
CHEE!... IT'S GONNA BE CREEPY WORKING FOR A BOSS WHO KEEPS CHANGING HIS FACE ALL THE TIME!
THE NEXT DAY, IN A CHINATOWN MUSEUM, THE THREE PULL THEIR FIRST JOINT CRIME...
CLAY-FACE!... HE HAS CHANGED INTO A DRAGON WHO WALKS LIKE A MAN!
OKAY BOSS-- WE GOT THE JADE STATUE!
LATER, WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN ARRIVE TO INVESTIGATE...
WHAT'S THAT -- DIRT ON THE FLOOR? THIS FLOOR WAS SPOTLESS BEFORE THOSE THIEVES CAME HERE!
IT'S NOT DIRT -- IT'S CLAY! IT MUST HAVE DROPPED FROM THE SHOE OF ONE OF THE BANDITS! WOULDN'T IT BE IRONIC IF A PIECE OF CLAY LED TO THE DEFEAT OF CLAY-FACE?
SOON, IN THE BAT-CAVE CRIME LABORATORY...
OUR TESTS SHOW THAT THE CLAY CONTAINS KAOLINITE, MICA, QUARTZ AND TOURMALINE! ROBIN, WE'RE IN LUCK... THIS IS KNOWN AS CHINA-CLAY, FOUND ONLY IN DEEP EXCAVATIONS!
LET'S CHECK WITH THE CITY'S CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT...
AWHILE LATER...
THE DEPARTMENT SAID THAT TYPE OF CLAY COMES FROM THIS NEW SUBWAY TUNNEL EXCAVATION!
AND OUR ELECTRONIC CRIME FILE REVEALED THAT A HOODLUM NAMED JOE SHANK LIVES IN THAT ROOMING HOUSE NEARBY! IT ALL ADDS UP... FROM NOW ON, WE'LL BE WATCHING SHANK'S EVERY MOVE!
ON THE FOLLOWING DAY...
LOOK! . SHANK MEETING ANOTHER THUG -- AND CLAY-FACE!
NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM
THEY'RE PUTTING ON MASKS... THEY OBVIOUSLY INTEND TO STRIKE AT THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM! LET'S DO WHAT WE CAN TO DISCOURAGE THEM!
9


SWIFTLY, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS LAUNCH A SURPRISE ATTACK...
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
THOSE TWO AGAIN! I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THEM FAST--ALTER MY BODY ENOUGH TO DO THE TRICK...
TURNING INTO A STRANGE BEAST, CLAY-FACE CHARGES FORWARD LIKE A JUGGERNAUT...
OOF!
UH!
NATURAL HISTORY
BATMAN IS FIRST TO RECOVER FROM THE IMPACT, AND...
ROBIN'S OKAY--JUST STUNNED! I'M... CLAY-FACE IS GONE--BUT I'VE STILL GOT A CHANCE TO CATCH UP WITH HIS TWO HENCHMEN!
NO SOONER DOES BATMAN DEPART, HOWEVER, THAN A "TREE" BEGINS TO MOVE, AND...
BATMAN NEVER SPOTTED ME IN THIS FORM! HE'S RUINED MY CHANCES FOR A SURPRISE ROBBERY--SO I MIGHT AS WELL GO HOME!
HISTORY MUSEUM
CLAY-FACE THINKS I'M STILL UNCONSCIOUS! WHEN HE LEAVES, I'LL GET A WHIRLY-BAT OUT OF THE BATMOBILE, AND TRAIL HIM FROM THE SKY!
THUS, SOME TIME LATER...
ROBIN TO BATMAN! I HAVE TRAILED CLAY-FACE TO A BIG MANSION AT EXIT OF GROVEHILL ROAD!

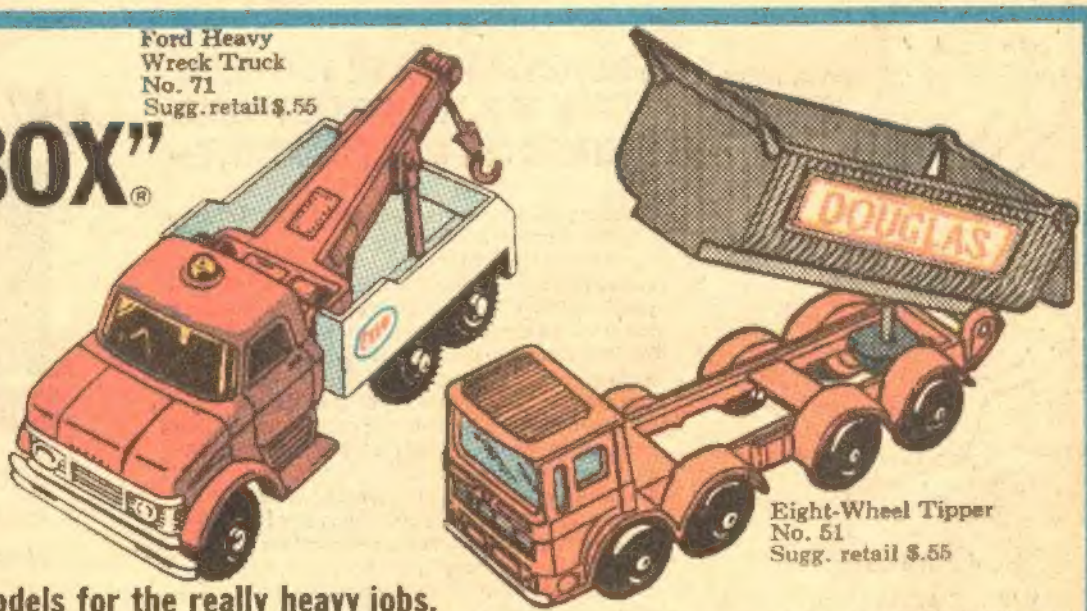
UPON LANDING...
ALL THE WINDOWS ARE SHUTTERED--I CAN'T SEE INTO THE PLACE! BUT I CAN GET INSIDE VIA THAT WIDE CHIMNEY--AND MAYBE SEE CLAY-FACE RESUME HIS REAL IDENTITY!
MEANWHILE UNAWARE THAT ROBIN IS DESCENDING THE CHIMNEY, CLAY-FACE HAS ASSUMED HIS HUMAN FORM...
HMM...SO FAR, I STILL HAVE MY POWER--AND IT'S BEEN NEARLY 48 HOURS SINCE I LAST RENEWED IT! I WONDER WHAT THE TIME-LIMIT IS?
WITHOUT WARNING, A LOOSE RUNG IN THE OLD CHIMNEY GIVES WAY UNDER ROBIN'S WEIGHT, AND...
ROBIN! HE'S FOUND OUT WHERE I LIVE!
AND WHILE THE BOY WONDER SCRAMBLES OUT OF THE FIREPLACE, CLAY-FACE ASSUMES A MENACING FORM...
HE'LL NEVER LIVE TO TELL MY SECRET TO ANYONE!
GOSH... NOW HE'S PART LION--PART DINOSAUR--PART UNICORN!
ONLY ROBIN'S AGILITY SAVES HIM FROM INSTANT DEATH...

AGAIN AND AGAIN, ROBIN DODGES THE DEADLY HORN, THE RAKING TALONS, UNT..
I'M BOXED IN! I'M FINISHED--FINISHED!
BUT ABRUPTLY, A FIGURE HURTLES INTO THE ROOM AND GALVINATES INTO ACTION..
BATMAN!
THIS TAPESTRY WILL KEEP HIM WRAPPED UP FOR A LITTLE WHILE...
I'D BETTER NOT TAKE ANY CHANCES...I'LL SLASH MY WAY FREE, CHANGE INTO A GIANT BIRD--AND ESCAPE FROM THEM!
RIP-P-P!
BUT, WHEN HE TRIES...
I CAN'T CHANGE! JUST WHAT I WAS AFRAID OF... THE TIME-LIMIT IS 48 HOURS, AND MY POWERS ARE EBBING AGAIN! I MUST GET TO THE POOL AND RENEW THEM!
BONG! BONG! BONG! BONG!
DESPERATELY, CLAY-FACE GRABS A CHAIR, AND...
UH-OH... HE DID THIS KIND OF THING ONCE BEFORE--WHEN HIS POWER WAS GOING! ROBIN--SLAM THAT DOOR SHUT... DON'T LET HIM GET OUT!
YOU'RE RIGHT BATMAN--HIS POWER IS GOING! HIS TALONS AND HORN ARE GETTING SHORTER.

THEN, BATMAN AND ROBIN STARE IN AWE AT THE STRANGE TRANSFORMATION OF BEAST INTO MAN!


YOU MIGHT AS WELL TELL US THE SECRET OF YOUR POWER -- BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER GET ANOTHER CHANCE TO USE IT!
I'M NOT TALKING... MY SECRET STAYS WITH ME!
13

NEW "MATCHBOX"® MODELS OF THE MONTH.



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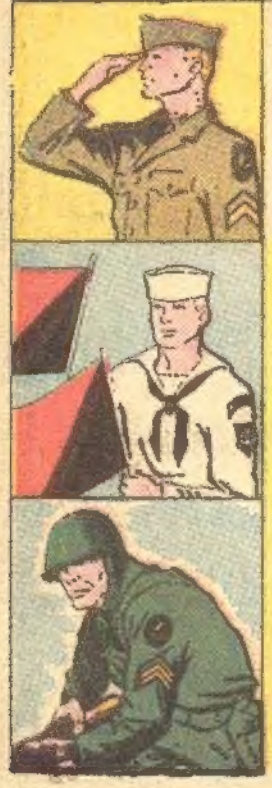

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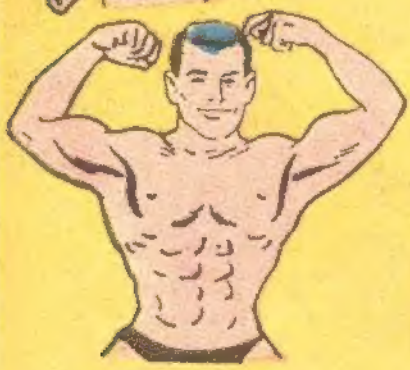
BOYS, MEN, BUILD, DEVELOP MIGHTY MUSCLES

WATCH THOSE MUSCLES GROW AND BULGE!



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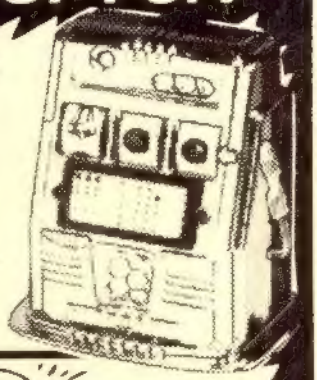
No. 183 $1.98

JACK POT BANK



Dime-operating Jack Pot Bank works like the one armed bandit in Las Vegas. Deposit the dime and spin the handle. Reels spin and look like the real stuff. Dimes are removable. Should not be used for gambling purposes.
No. 2060 1.50

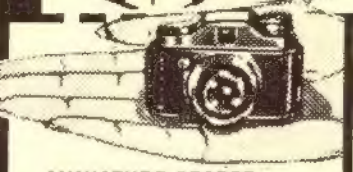
SURPRISE PACKAGE

Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you get, but because you're willing to gamble, we'll give you more than your money's worth.
No. 678 Only 50c

MONSTER SIZE MONSTERS

Imagine your friends' shock when they walk into your room and see the "visitor" standing around . . . as BIG as life. as horrible and sinister as any nightmare and so life-like you'll probably find yourself talking to them.

No. F17A-Dracula $1.00
No. F17B-Wolfman $1.00



MINIATURE SECRET CAMERA

Precision camera so small, it fits in cigarette pack. Weighs 2½ ounces and takes 10 pictures per roll. Precision ground lens and time expose shutter. Can be hidden anywhere. Complete with free roll of film.
No. 788 $1.00
6 Rolls Film 98c

SMOKE CLOUD

Light one and watch the column of thick, white smoke rise to the ceiling and expand into a dense cloud. Sensational surprising effect.
No. 971 20c

SKIN HEAD WIG

Most people try to grow hair. This is just the opposite. Made of flesh toned latex will fit all heads. For the executive that would like to change his appearance.
A35 $1.00

JOY BUZZER

Most popular joke novelty in years! Wind up and wear it like a ring. When you shake hands, it almost raises the victim off his feet with a "shocking sensation." Absolutely harmless.
No. 239 Only 50c

20 COURSE HOME STUDY PROGRAM

KARATE Jiu-Jitsu only $1.00

JUDO, BOXING, SAVATE, Isometric Muscle Building, Endurance, Stunts.

Here is what you get!

- 20 best KARATE Blows and Chops
- SAVATE French foot fighting
- Nerve center anatomy chart
- JUDO throws, Jiu Jitsu holds
- Isometric muscle building course
- Endurance Exercises and lots more

FREE Karate Practice and Nerve Center Chart Item No. 73

TRICK BASEBALL

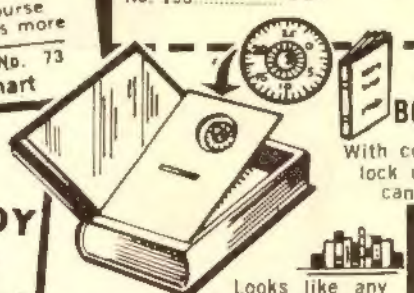
It bounces cockeyed, it curves, it dips, it's impossible to catch. It's sure to set all the kids on the block spinning after it. There's a barrel of fun in every bounce of this amazing baseball.
No. 158 50¢

MONEYMAKER

Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob . . . and . . . OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to $10.
A135 1.25

SECRET SPY SCOPE

Pen Size—Clips On Your Pocket-6 Power Magnifier.
6-power wide field magnifier is cleverly concealed in a pen-sized pocket scope **Item No. F59 $1.98**



SECRET BOOK SAFE

With combination lock only you can open.

Looks like any book so no one would think to look for valuables in it. Securely locked by combination only you know - because you yourself have set it. Tough under-structure is covered with simulated leather binding **700 $1.**

BUILD A BODY OF STEEL

Start Seeing Results in Just 30 Days

Pocket gym will develop your chest, biceps, triceps, neck, back, shoulder, stomach, and legs. Begin to earn the respect of all your friends—the admiration of all the girls. You'll keep fit, healthy, and fear no one! Compactly made of heavy elastic rubber.
No. 7001 Only $1.00

WHOOPEE CUSHION

Place on a chair under a cushion, then watch the fun when someone sits down! It gives forth embarrassing noises. Made of rubber, and inflatable. A scream
No. 247 50c

ONION GUM

Yes—Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! Its too funny! 5 slices to a pack.
No. 281 20c

X-RAY SPECS

An Hilarious Optical Illusion $1.00

Scientific optical principle really works. Imagine—you put on the "X-Ray" Specs and hold your hand in front of you. You seem to be able to look right through the flesh and see the bones underneath. Look at your friend. Is that really his body you "see" under his clothes? Loads of laughs and fun at parties.
No. FL7 $1.00

Glows in the dark

Monster-Size FULL SIZE SKELETON

This 5-foot "Mr. Bones" is scary enough at any time but wait'll you see him glowing in the dark! Shake him and his arms and legs move . . . you'd swear he's alive. If you like to haunt houses and frighten friends, this is for you! Or hang him in your room.
No. F200 $1.25

Honor House Prod. Corp. **Dept. 86-GK-55**
Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563

Rush me the items listed below. If I am not 100% satisfied, I may return any part of my purchase after 10 days Free Trial for full refund of purchase price.

Item	Name of Item	How Many	Total Price

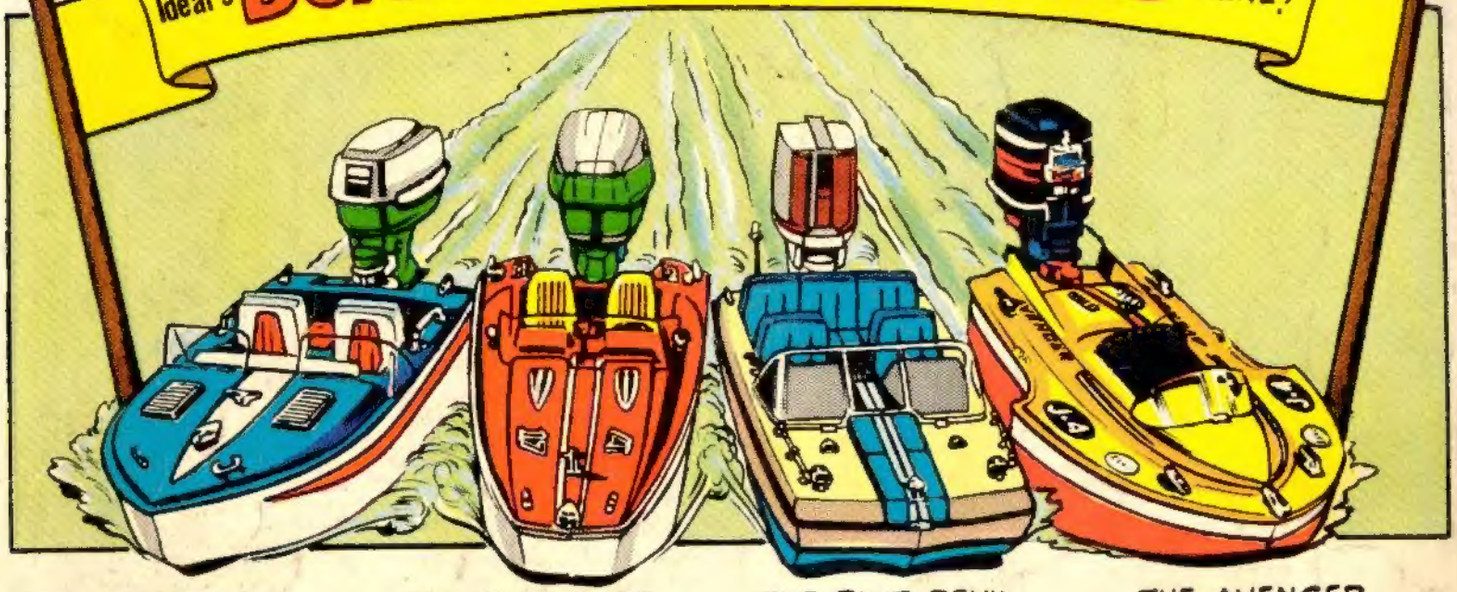
☐ I enclose ..... in full payment. Same guarantee.
☐ Send C.O.D. I will pay postman on delivery plus C.O.D. and shipping charges.

Name _____

Address _____ Zip _____

N.Y. State residents please add 2% sales tax. Sorry, we cannot ship orders for less than $1.00. Kindly add 15c for postage and handling to all orders.

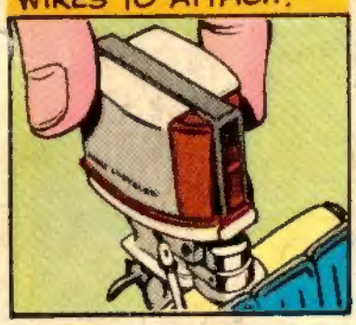
Ideal's BOATERIFIC™ OUTBOARDS ARE HERE!



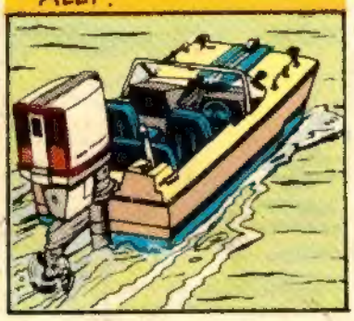
THE SCORPION THE RENEGADE THE BLUE DEVIL THE AVENGER

FOUR HOT NEW OUTBOARDS THAT COME WITH SOUPED-UP MOTORS!

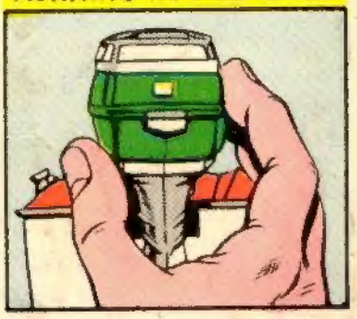
CLAMP DOWN BLUE DEVIL'S CHRYSLER MOTOR...NO WIRES TO ATTACH!



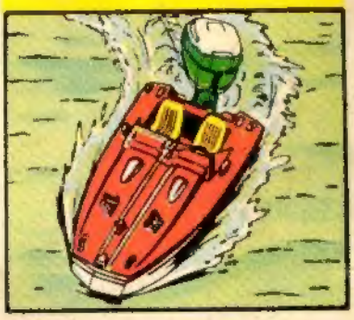
TILT DOWN...AND IT KICKS OFF AUTOMATICALLY!



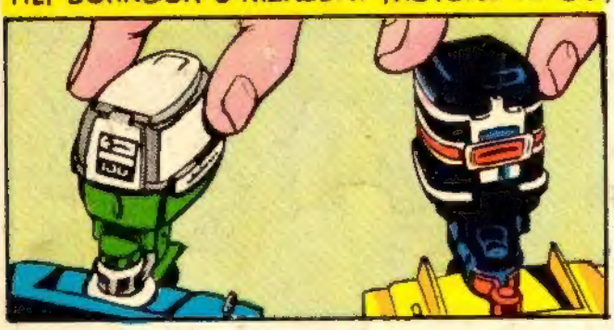
SET THE RENEGADE'S EVINRUDE MOTOR FOR RUNNING MANEUVERS...



OR SET IT FOR TIGHT TURNS!

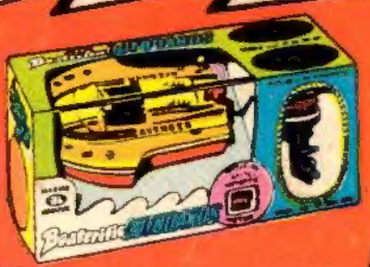


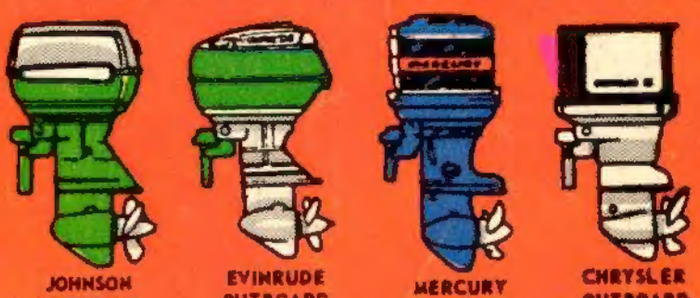
TILT JOHNSON & MERCURY MOTORS TO GO!



AND IT'S BYE BYE BABY IN A RACE WITH NO HOLDS BARRED!

GET THE HOT NEW OUTBOARDS FROM BOATERIFIC. EACH COMES WITH A SIZZLING COMPETITION MOTOR... GET ALL FOUR MOTORS... THEY'RE SOLD SEPARATELY, TOO!





LOOK FOR THEM AT YOUR FAVORITE STORE NOW.

BOATERIFIC...IT'S TERRIFIC...IT'S IDEAL